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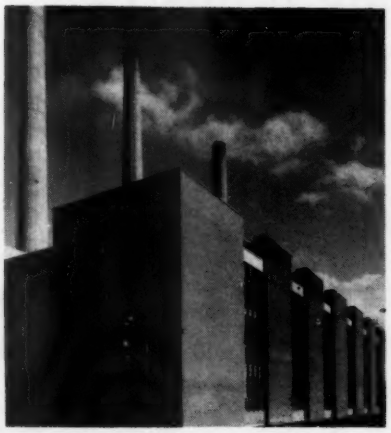
Trade and Industry

10 December 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



Merseyside power station which UML Ltd, the Unilever services company, has extended at a cost of £2½ million to meet demands of local industry. As it produces both steam and electricity, it has a greater thermal efficiency than conventional power stations – and thus energy (see page 721).

Trade and Industry

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Editorial
Room 439 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

Editorial inquiries		01-215 5730
Editor	Alan Williams	01-215 5653
Deputy editor	C. R. Kabraji	01-215 5654
Features and technology	Geoff Sedgwick Jennifer Clarke	01-215 5656 01-215 5074
Special features and promotion	John Bentley	01-215 5655
European community and overseas trade	Gillian Samuel Alex Mayne-Reid Geoff Hosford	01-215 5620 01-215 3016 01-215 3006
Art and pictures	Bob Priestley	01-215 3118
Circulation control	Christine Swinyard	01-215 5021

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T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED

Senior advertisement representative Colin Beadle 01-242 6264

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Home news

Improved assistance for the clothing industry

Improvements in the terms of government assistance available to the clothing industry were announced on 7 December by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry.

1 The basic rate of grant for approved investment projects will be increased to 25 per cent (from 20 per cent).
2 The minimum size for investment projects is to be reduced to £10,000 (from £30,000). The new limit is designed to bring many more projects within the scope of the scheme, and is specially tailored to the needs of the clothing industry.
3 The limit of £5,000 on consultancy assistance is to be removed.
4 The consultancy aid limit of 300 employees will now be applied to the establishment. Companies or groups with up to 1,000 employees will now be eligible for consultancy aid. The previous limit of 300 employees was applied to companies or groups.
5 The closing date for applications is to be extended by one year to 31 December 1977. Projects will still have to be completed by 31 December 1978.
6 The improved terms and conditions will apply to all projects approved on and after 1 December 1976.

At the press conference on assistance to the clothing industry, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, is flanked by Stephen Carter (left), director of the Clothing Scheme Administration Unit, and Jack Macgougan, member of the Clothing EDC and general secretary, National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

In a written answer to a parliamentary question from Ben Ford (Bradford North), Mr Williams said: 'I am pleased to announce an extension of and improvements to the clothing industry scheme of assistance under part 2 of the Industry Act 1972.

'The original scheme, introduced in October 1975, has not proved entirely successful in generating new investment in advanced machinery, although the provisions to encourage consultancy studies have been quite well received. The clothing industry has been passing through a most difficult period, and the expected upturn in trading conditions did not in fact materialise over the past year. As a result it is not likely that grants of more than £4 million will have been authorised by the current closing date.

'The Economic Development Committee for Clothing therefore proposed to my department that the scheme should be extended so as to allow the industry increased opportunity to take up assistance, and to stimulate the investment vitally necessary for its long term survival. The EDC also recommended changes in the scheme likely to prove attractive to firms seeking to modernise their plants and improve their productivity.

'The improvements I am now announcing largely follow the EDC's proposals. While the basic framework of the scheme remains unaltered, there are substantial improvements in incentives and in the conditions of eligibility for assistance.'

After listing the improved terms, Mr Williams said: 'We have also decided that the total sum of money available under the scheme will be £15 million. Consequently about £10 million is now available to the industry for projects under the improved terms of assistance.

'I am confident that the clothing industry will seize this opportunity to invest in new advanced machinery, and that the revised scheme will greatly help the industry in its efforts to meet competition by increasing productivity and by restructuring and rationalising its organisation and production methods.'

At a press conference, Mr Williams said further action was needed because of the depressed state of the industry and the prevailing rate of import penetration. This position would be improved since '80 to 90 per cent of textile imports from low-cost sources, are now covered by import restrictions.'

Some firms in Britain could, 'do a great deal more to improve their competitive position'. The object of the new scheme was to increase productivity.

Background

The Clothing Industry Scheme was announced in July 1975 and details were published in October 1975. The scheme, which originally provided £20 million, aims to help the industry by encouraging rationalisation and restructuring and by improving productivity and efficiency.

Investment totalling about £2.5 million has already been approved under the scheme, involving government assistance of about £500,000. In addition, grants of £80,000 have been approved towards 57 projects worth about £200,000 under category 1 (assistance for consultancy projects). At present, 74 investment projects worth nearly £16 million are under consideration.

The clothing industry is one of the sectors chosen for special study in the industrial strategy. Copies of the sector working party's first report are obtainable from the National Economic Development Office. (*See also page* 716).

Total sales of the clothing industry amounted to £1,572 million in 1975. Exports were worth £175 million and imports totalled £388 million. Employment in the industry was just under 300,000 in April.

Inquiries

The objectives and framework for the improved scheme remain those set out in the 'Notes for the Guidance of Applicants' obtainable from the administration unit, which will continue to deal with detailed inquiries about the scheme: Department of Industry, Clothing Scheme Administration Unit, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4 BA (tel. 061-236 2171).

Britain's invisible earnings set new record

Britain's gross private invisible earnings reached a new peak of £3,282 million in the third quarter of this year. The figure, says the Committee on Invisible Exports, is some £200 million more than in the previous quarter. Earnings in the first nine months of this year have now reached £9,246 million – 22 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

The net surplus on private invisible earnings was also higher at £1,108 million compared with £1,006 million in the second quarter. There was a strong rise in earnings on the travel account reflecting an increase in the number of visitors to the UK and their expenditure per head. There was also a considerable rise in earnings from merchanting and construction work overseas.

Power plant report to be published

The report on the power plant industry by the government 'think tank' – the Central Policy Review Staff – is to be published so that views can be expressed before the government takes decisions.

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced this on 7 December in answer to a parliamentary question by Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East). 'There has been consultation based on the draft report, with manufacturers, the Central Electricity Generating Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board about commercial material supplied by them in confidence,' Mr Varley said. 'The report, with minor deletions to remove sensitive material of this kind, will now be published on 16 December. Copies will be placed in the library. I hope that interested parties will as soon as possible thereafter make their views known so that these can be taken into account when the government takes decisions.'

The announcement followed swiftly on the conclusion of the CPRS study which the government commissioned in June 1976 because of its concern about the problems facing the power plant manufacturing industry.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949, the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
15 November 1976		
1,265,674	Breveteam SA	A flexible article of sheet material in which at least one of the surfaces is adhesive
1,298,659	Breveteam SA	Process for the preparation of a structured fibre-bonded material and a fibre-bonded material prepared according to the process
1,349,711	Breveteam SA	Method for the manufacture of a non-woven fibre-based sheet material having a relief-like surface and sheet material articles formed from such material
1,195,283	Hans Heinert Runge	Apparatus for superfinishing crankpins of crankshafts
1,334,361	Hans Heinert Runge	Apparatus for superfinishing rotating crankpins of crankshafts
1,359,260	Serdex-Societe D'Etudes, de Recherches de Diffusion et D'Exploitation	Yohimbine derivatives, process for their preparation and their applications
1,414,589	Serdex-Societe D'Etudes, de Recherches de Diffusion et D'Exploitation	Improvements in or relating to yohimbohydrazide derivatives, process for their preparation and their applications
1,385,967	Alan Neville Trass	Ignition distribution
1,392,802	Alan Neville Trass	Chopped light ignition triggering system and solid state transistor ignition
1,035,899	Ennio Sergio Floreani	Method and apparatus for brushing sisal fibres
1,295,060	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Vehicle engine, clutch and transmission control device
1,308,381	Hygrometric Inc	Improvements in or relating to devices responsive to changes in humidity
1,345,760	'Engrenages et Reducteurs', Engrenages Citroen et Ets Robert Messian reunis	Improvements in and relating to rotational couplings
1,364,025	Kurt Stoll KG	Improvements in or relating to hand grinders
1,441,650	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Method of and apparatus for severing vitreous sheets
23 November 1976		
1,295,184	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in hydrostatic transmissions
1,366,511	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	An arrangement for driving a passive element in accordance with a predetermined law of movement
1,367,512	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements to hydrostatic machines with cylinder capacity variation control by distributor rotation
1,206,196	Daimler-Benz Aktiengesellschaft	Infinitely variable hydrostatic transmission for vehicles, especially for motor vehicles
1,322,803	Blaise Rastoin	Spiral conveyor for pulverised, granular, fibrous or fluid products
1,330,156	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	A cutter head for a mineral mining machine
1,347,025	Nikex Nehezipari Kulkereskedelmi Vallalat	Waste liquid treatment
1,363,697	Franz Arnold	A mechanical clamping device, more especially a vice
1,405,684	Jean Pierre Comes and Paul Wattelez	A groove plug

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

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View down the 6,000 ft long assembly line at the new Rover 3500 plant, showing CompAir chassis number stamping units in the foreground. On emerging from the paint shop, the Rover body shells receive the statutory double chassis number stamping. The stamping units are hydro-pneumatic squeeze riveters developed by CompAir Industrial Ltd, High Wycombe, Bucks. These lightweight overhead suspended presses indent – with relatively little noise – chassis number digits with a pressure of 18 tons into the parent metal of the car body.

Industry Act assistance: interest rates increased

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 were increased with effect from 6 December.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms obtain their finance from other sources – has been increased from 15 per cent to 15½ per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (Category A) is increased from 12 per cent to 12½ per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (Category B) is increased from 15 per cent to 15½ per cent.

Advance factories in Lancashire

Work is to start on the construction of three advance factories for the Department of Industry at Altham Lane, Altham, Lancs. Two of the factories are of about 1,350m² (15,000 sq ft) each and the other is of 900m² (10,000 sq ft).

The English Industrial Estates Corporation states that a contract worth over £460,000, which includes site development works, has been awarded to Holland Hannen and Cubitts (Northern) Ltd of Blackburn. Architects for the project are the Gilling Dod Partnership of Liverpool and the quantity surveyors are Thornton-Firkin and Partners of Blackburn. The premises should be ready for occupation in September 1977.

The corporation also announces that work is about to start on the construction of an advance factory of about 1,350m² (15,000 sq ft) for the Department of Industry at Queensway, Rochdale, Lancs. A contract worth about £138,000 has been awarded to William Townson and Son Ltd of Bolton, Lancs. Architects for the project are Hugh Wilson and Lewis Womersley and the quantity surveyors are Turner and Townsend, both of Manchester. The premises should be ready for occupation in June 1977.

Inquiries on construction work in respect of the Altham or Rochdale factories should be addressed to W. D. MacDonald, regional manager, English Industrial Estates Corporation, 158/168 Sefton House, Exchange Buildings Liverpool L2 3RD, tel. 051-236 7005. Inquiries on purchase or lease should be addressed to P. G. Forsdike, Department of Industry, North West Region, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA, tel. 061 236 2171 ext. 646.

New Post Office senior director of development

John Stuart Whyte is to be the Post Office's new senior director of development succeeding Prof James Merriman, who retires at the end of the year. He will lead all research and development activity. This embraces projects like System X, waveguide and fibre optics – which have export potential – and a variety of engineering work to improve Post Office service.

Cross Paperware expands in Cumbria

The English Industrial Estates Corporation is to build an extension of about 180m² (1,900 sq ft) and carry out adaptations to the premises occupied by Cross Paperware Ltd on the Cleator Mills industrial estate, Cumbria.

Cross Paperware, a subsidiary of the British Printing Corporation, is engaged in the conversion of paper disposables and the manufacture of plastic cups and containers, cutlery and drinking straws. The work now to be carried out is concerned with a new steam process for the manufacture of expanded polystyrene drinking vessels and containers which will be used by the catering and take-away trades.

A contract worth about £44,000 has been awarded to Thomas Armstrong (Contractors) Ltd of Cockermouth. The work should be completed by June 1977.

An additional nine employees, rising to 16, are expected to be employed as a result of this extension.

Mr R. L. Sutton, regional director of the Department of Industry, said that the department was pleased to be able to help with this small but worthwhile project in a modern industry which was creating new jobs as well as introducing new technology.

New advance factory at South Shields

An advance factory of about 1,350m² (15,000 sq ft) is being built for the Department of Industry at Eldon Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

A contract worth about £130,000 has been awarded by the English Industrial Estates Corporation to Jas Prentice Ltd of Sunderland. Architects are J. T. Latheron also of Sunderland, and the quantity surveyors are J. W. Summers and Partners of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The premises should be ready for occupation in July 1977. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be made to the Regional Director, Department of Industry, Northern Region, Stanegate House, 2 Groat Market, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1YN (tel. Newcastle (0632) 24722).

Development Commission factories at Leeming Bar

Two advance factories are being built by the English Industrial Estates Corporation for the Development Commission on the Leeming Bar Industrial Estate, near Northallerton, North Yorkshire. One of these factories is of 450m² (5,000 sq ft) and the other is a block of two terrace units totalling 450m² (5,000 sq ft).

A contract worth about £127,000, which includes site development works, has been awarded to Walter Thompson (Contractors) Ltd of Northallerton. Architects are Elder, Lester and Partners of Yarm-on-Tees, and quantity surveyors are Turner and Townsend of Aycliffe.

The premises should be ready for occupation in May 1977. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be made to Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF (tel: Leeds (0532)443171).

Government factory at Whitby

Work has started on the construction of a 900m² (10,000 sq ft) advance factory for the Department of Industry on the Stainsacre Industrial Estate, Whitby, North Yorkshire.

The English Industrial Estates Corporation has awarded a contract worth about £103,000 to Tarmac Construction Ltd of Stockton-on-Tees. Architects are Blackbell and Rooker of Thornaby, and quantity surveyors are John G. Hellawell and Partner of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The premises should be ready for occupation next May. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be addressed to the Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF (tel: Leeds (0532) 443171).

Official appointments

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has made the following appointments:

Design Council New members: John Packer, managing director, Reid and Taylor Ltd; Zach Brierley, managing director, Zach Brierley Ltd. Re-appointed members: William Cowan, managing director, J. H. Carruthers and Co Ltd; Mr G. B. R. Feilden, director general, British Standards Institution; Prudence Glynn (Lady Windlesham), fashion editor, *The Times*; Alexander Gordon, Alex Gordon and Partners; John M. Gray, chairman, Northern Ireland Electricity Service; Angus Sillars, managing director, Strathearne Glass Ltd; Nigel Vinson, chairman, Industrial Participation Association. These nine members will join the chairman, Viscount Caldecote, and existing 18 members.

Industrial Development Unit Russell Hawkes has joined the Industrial Development Unit of the Department of Industry as a deputy director. Mr Hawkes is a partner of Spicer and Pegler, chartered accountants,

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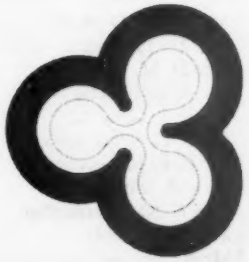
Telephone: 01-488 2400.



London Office of the North East New Towns

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and is on secondment to the department for a two-year period.

Furniture Development Council The statutory quinquennial review to consider the future of the Furniture Development Council has now been completed and it has been decided that the council shall continue in being unchanged. Sir Roger Falk has agreed to remain in office as chairman.

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade has made the following appointments:

British Airways Board Mr J. Ross Stainton to be a deputy chairman.

Dorothy N. Barrett to be a member of the board with effect from 1 January 1977. Miss Barrett's appointment is part-time and will run until 31 December 1979.

The Civil Aviation Authority and the British Airports Authority Nigel Foulkes to be the next chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority and Norman Payne to be the next chairman of the British Airports Authority.

Mr Foulkes, who has been chairman of the BAA for the last five years, will succeed Lord Boyd-Carpenter who was appointed chairman of the CAA for five years from its inception on 1 April 1972.

Mr Payne, who has been chief executive of the BAA since 1972, will succeed Mr Foulkes. He will be a full-time chairman of the BAA. Both appointments take effect from 1 April 1977.

Robin Goodison's appointment as deputy chairman of the CAA is extended from 21 December 1976 to 30 September 1977. Mr Goodison has held this appointment since the authority was set up.

Cinematograph Films Council Allan Grant to be chairman for a period of up to three years with effect from 1 December 1976. Mr Grant succeeds Anthony Mallinson who has resigned, because of other commitments, after being chairman of the council since September 1973.

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments:

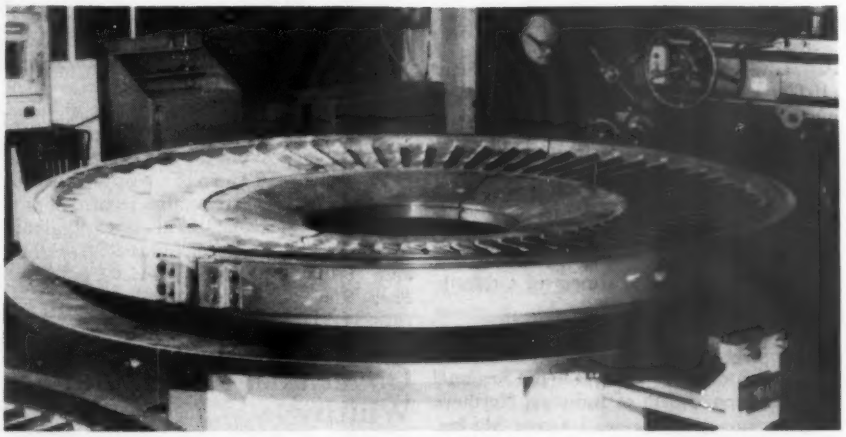
Transport Users' Consultative Committee for the South Eastern Area Professor D. Wiggins to be chairman.

Post Office Users' Council for Northern Ireland The following to be members.

Mr T. Archdale
Mr C. Bamford
Cllr S. J. Bell
Mr R. E. Bracken
*Mr W. Clarke
Mrs M. E. Donaghy
Prof D. T. Elmore
Mrs D. M. L. Geelan
*Mr A. E. Gordon
Mr J. A. Gray
Dr D. C. S. McAlister
*Mr P. F. McGovern
*Mrs M. McIlgorm
Miss S. M. Murnaghan
Mr R. A. Robb
*Mr R. Rogan
Mr J. E. Sherrard
Mr H. Taggart
Cllr R. Taylor-Nobbs

* Denotes new member.

How to turn a 12-ton load by hand



New type of rotary turntable, designed by Benrath Machine Tools in co-operation with Rolair Systems (UK), supplied to the Trafford Park works of GEC Turbine Generators. The table works in conjunction with a heavy duty horizontal drilling machine, and is being used by GEC for drilling holes at intervals on the periphery of turbine diaphragms. These diaphrams are up to 10 ft in diameter and weigh up to 12 tons. The table is located over four Rolair 22 in diameter air bearings and, when it is to be rotated, the operator turns on the air supply, creating a thin air film between the complaint bearings and the turntable. The turnable can then be rotated by hand until it has indexed over its new position for drilling, at which time the air supply is turned off and the table clamped.

Ministers write on importance of tourism

The importance of tourism to the United Kingdom, and to Scotland and Wales in particular, is underlined by the 'Men in Charge' – the three ministers responsible for tourism – in the latest issue of *British Travel News*, the British Tourist Authority's quarterly review.

The Secretaries of State for Trade, for Scotland and for Wales give their views in three messages published in the latest issue of the magazine.

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade writes: 'The government hax a two-pronged policy for tourism. First, we aim to sustain tourism in the recognised tourist centres. Second, we aim to divert some of the future growth to the less well-known areas which have much to offer and to periods outside the peak season.'

Mr Dell also says: 'I am confident that we can continue to compete successfully with almost the whole world and that the flow of tourists to this country will continue to increase in the years ahead.'

Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, refers to 'the evidence of co-operation among all authorities concerned and of their efforts to increase the spread of tourist traffic both geographically and over a longer season.'

'I regard the continued development of tourism as a significant factor in the Scottish economy,' he writes.

John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, stresses the 'switching' of part of the government's spending on tourism to the development of untapped tourist potential in areas that can readily absorb and benefit from more visitors, particularly the development areas.

He says: 'The new policy has obvious advantages for Wales but care will be needed so that the character of our rural areas is not threatened: we must assure that the growth of tourism is properly managed so that the environment is enjoyed but not damaged by our visitors.'

In an interview entitled 'Seven tremendous years' Sir Alexander Glen, chairman of BTA since 1969, reviews his involvement with the authority and speaks about the future.

He says: 'I think it (the future) lies in the co-operation of the entire travel trade hotels, airlines, shipping companies, other transport operators large and small, travel agents, in joint venture marketing and promotion overseas.'

British Travel News, published quarterly, is available on an annual subscription of £3.00 from the British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London SW1A 1NF.

New noise abatement procedures at Heathrow

A new way of reducing disturbance from aircraft noise in an 11-mile approach path to Heathrow Airport, London, between Lambeth and Kew is to be given a six month trial from the end of the year.

This was announced by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping at the Department of Trade, in a written answer on 2 December to a question from Neville Sandelson (Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington)

Mr Clinton Davis said:

'The Civil Aviation Authority, in co-operation with my department, has revised the Air Traffic Control procedures for aircraft on approach to land at Heathrow from the east. The revised procedures are to be introduced on 30 December and have been designed to assist pilots to make greater use of two noise abatement approach techniques: "continuous descent" and managed drag.

'These techniques were described at a Department of Trade presentation given on 2 May and copies of a document summarising this presentation have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

'It is not possible to forecast the precise scale of benefit but some noise reduction is anticipated in places between five and 14 miles from the airport due to (a) aircraft following a generally higher flight profile up to a point some 10 miles from the airport (b) avoidance of engine power to arrest descent and maintain level flight before commencing final approach (c) higher speeds enabling aircraft to be flown with less drag and so less power, and (d) slightly reduced flight times over the affected areas.

'The trials are planned to last for six months and an extensive programme of monitoring has been planned. At the end of the trial period, the procedure will, if successful, become the standard method of operation for approaches from the east at Heathrow and studies will be made regarding their extension to approaches from the west and to other major UK airports.'

New structure for European air fares proposed by airline users

The present 'jungle' of European air fares is sharply criticised by the Airline Users Committee in a report* published on 8 December, which urges that it should be completely cleared and replaced by a simple new fare structure.

The present fare structure, says the committee, overcharges many passengers. Pointing out that there is little competition between European scheduled airlines, the report concludes that passengers using economy normal fares are having to pay more than an efficient airline would need to secure a reasonable profit.

The committee rates the typical European fare structure irrational, and so complex that passengers cannot know what fare they should be paying. There are opportunities for evasion and cheating.

The committee recommends that in a reformed European fare structure there should be only the following four types of fare:

Business class corresponding to the present normal economy class and utilising a block of seats within the lower class cabin. Fares are to be based on costs which means substantial reduction from current normale conomy levels.

First class. Price of fares to be about double the business class in order to reflect higher seating standards and to achieve a reasonable profit.

Budget class to replace all existing promotional scheduled fares. Prices to vary according to season and time of service. Subject to special conditions designed to cut costs and protect seats for late-booking business traffic, such as advance booking and payment, and restricted refunds. Where seats are not sold in advance they are to be available on instant purchase basis, subject to other demands.

Wholesale rates to tour organisers. Seats to be sold in bulk at production cost plus a profit margin but net of nearly all marketing costs. These would be the cheapest seats – available only through tour organisers.

In its study of European fares the committee state that these vary widely and irrationally between different geographical areas over similar distances – for example, they say, it costs £21.70 more to fly to Naples (1,002 miles) than to Faro (1,057 miles). It also found that single routes often have a multiplicity of fares – for example, on the London-Malaga route there are over 30

* 'European Air Fares, A Report by the Airline Users Committee to the Civil Aviation Authority.' Published by the CAA price £1.75, and available from CAA, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Glos or by personal callers from CAA Central Library, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2.

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different rates (including six categories of discounts).

The committee believes that its recommended fare structure would: 'not only bring this confusion to an end, but also, by abolishing individual tour-basing fares, eliminate the greater part of the illicit business – estimated to have a turnover of £40-£50 million in the London area – at present enjoyed by "bucket shops".' It believes that a fare structure where all fares are more closely related to costs can provide an urgent incentive for the airlines to reduce their costs. It also foresees substantial reductions in the charges for point to point transport.

Airline Users Committee annual report

The third annual report* of the Airline Users Committee was published on 8 December. This records a variety of consumer problems to which the committee directed its attention in the year ending 30 September 1976, including:

Overbooking;
Problems in connection with the Tristar service on the London-Belfast route and with shuttle services between London and Glasgow/Edinburgh;
Flight frequencies between London and Aberdeen/Edinburgh;
Fire hazards in flight;
No-smoking accommodation in aircraft:
Quality of in-flight announcements;
Congestion at Terminal 3, Heathrow, because of fog;
Pilferage of passengers' baggage;
Passenger handling deficiencies at Birmingham (Elmdon);
Overcrowding at Gate 49, Heathrow;
Lack of trolleys at Heathrow terminals, particularly no 3;
Traffic congestion to and from Heathrow; and
Availability of taxis at West London Air Terminal and Heathrow.

The number of complaints received by the committee in this period (complaints which users had been unable to resolve with airlines and air travel organisers in the first place) totalled 331. The committee does not believe that these complaints present a full picture of the shortcomings of the air transport industry from a consumer's point of view.

The committee says that its terms of reference could be improved and that it may well make positive proposals in the future. However, it has rejected, with one dissenting voice, the recommendation of the National Consumer Council that the AUC should become a wing of the proposed National Transport Consumers Council. The NCC, the committee states, failed to take account of the unique role of the Civil Aviation Authority to which the committee is linked, or the fact that the air transport industry is not wholly nationalised. It also failed to find a remedy to the demarcation problem, which is confusing for airline users, arising from the divided consumer responsibilities of the BAA and airlines at BAA airports.

The committee intends to publish early in the New Year two free booklets for airline users – one a general guide on ways to make air travel trouble-free and the other practical advice for handicapped and elderly passengers.

* 'Airline Users Committee Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 1976.' Published by the Civil Aviation Authority price 68p. Available from CAA, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Glos or by personal callers from CAA Central Library, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2.

New regulations on valuation of insurance companies' assets

New regulations which amend and clarify the prescribed methods of valuing insurance companies' assets were published on 8 December, and come into effect on 30 December 1976.

Under present regulations, certain individual assets must be left out of account, in determining a company's solvency for the purposes of the Insurance Companies Act 1974, to the extent that the value of each exceeds a specified percentage of the company's liabilities.

The new regulations make it clear that there is no limit to the admissibility of securities issued by governments and public authorities, whether national or local, British or foreign. They also raise – from one-quarter of 1 per cent to 1 per cent of the company's liabilities – the admissibility limit for mortgage loans to individuals. But these loans must be fully secured on owner-occupied homes and not made to people connected with the company.

The new regulations, which have been prepared in consultation with the insurance industry, will apply in respect of financial years ending on or after 31 December 1976.

Notes

The new regulations, the Insurance Companies (Valuation of Assets) (Amendment) Regulations 1976, (SI 1976 No 2039) were laid before parliament on 8 December. Copies are available from HMSO price 10p net.

Also laid before parliament on the same day were the Insurance Companies (Accounts and Forms) (Amendment) (No 3) Regulations 1976 (SI 1976 No 2040 which further amend the Insurance Companies (Accounts and Forms) Regulations 1968 to take account of the new valuation regulations. Copies are available from HMSO price 10p net.

Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

The following changes have taken place in Parts 1, 4 and 5 of the 1976 edition of 'Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts' published in May.

PART 1 HOLDERS OF PRINCIPALS' LICENCES

Name	Nationality or country of incorporation	Address
ADDITIONS		
Allen and Cramb Ltd	Great Britain	20 Queens Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9UZ
Barnett Christie Ltd	Great Britain	16 Berkeley Street, London W1
Gibbs [Antony Gibbs Financial Services Ltd]	Great Britain	23 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7NL
Ravendale Securities Ltd	Great Britain	17 Dunraven Street, London W1
Richards, Longstaff (Life and Estate Duty) Ltd	Great Britain	Dominion House, 37/45 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QF
Towry Law and Co Ltd	Great Britain	Capel House, 54 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1RR
Towry Law and Co (Yorkshire) Ltd	Great Britain	Capel House, 54 New Bond Street, London EC2M 1RR
Wien [M. S. Wien and Co (UK) Ltd]	Great Britain	20 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7JQ
DELETIONS		
Jackson Graham Moore and Partners		9-10 Angel Court, London EC2R 7LR
Gregory Phillips Moore	Australian	
John Charles Grattan	Australian	
Frank Binning Wolff	Australian	
Sassoon [J. M. Sassoon (Overseas Services) Pte Ltd]	Singapore	8 The Crescent, Minories, London EC3N 2LY
CHANGE OF ADDRESS		
Aynsley Trust Ltd	Great Britain	Malaya House, 30A High Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9PE
Queen Street Trust Ltd	Great Britain	Royco House, Liston Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1BX
Standard Guarantee Ltd	Great Britain	17A Connaught Street, London W2 2AY
Van Cutsem and Associates Ltd	Great Britain	42 Essex Street, London WC2R 3JF

PART 4 EXEMPTED DEALERS including TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Name	Registered office, principal place of business or principal place of business in Great Britain
CHANGE OF NAME AND ADDRESS	
Sumitomo White Weld Ltd (London)	Commercial Union Building, St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3HJ
TO	
Sumitomo International Finance AG	66 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7EL

Group and/or name and address of management company	Name of scheme	Name and address of trustee
ADDITIONS		
National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Ltd 41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP	National Westminster Portfolio Investment Fund	Royal Exchange Assurance Royal Exchange London EC3P 3DN
Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd 30-31 Queen Street London EC4R 1BR	Chieftain International Trust	Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd 27-32 Poultry London EC2P 2BX
Ridgefield Management Ltd 1 Ridgefield Manchester 2	Ridgefield International Unit Trust	Lloyds Bank Ltd 71 Lombard Street London EC3P 3BS
CHANGES		
DELETE Metropolitan Exempt Fund Managers Ltd 20 Haymarket London SW1Y 4SR	Metropolitan Exempt Fund	Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd 20 Birchin Lane London EC3P 3DP
AND REPLACE BY Mercury Fund Managers 30 Gresham Street London EC2P 2EB	Mercury Exempt Fund	Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd 20 Birchin Lane London EC3P 3DP

The following changes have taken place in the entry for 'Save and Prosper Securities Ltd'
In the trustee column against 'Save and Prosper High Yield Units'

DELETE
Barclays Bank Trust Co Ltd
54 Lombard Street
London EC3P 3AH

AND REPLACE BY
The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd
42 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 2YE

In the trustee column against 'Investment Trust Units'

DELETE
Barclays Bank Trust Co Ltd
54 Lombard Street
London EC3P 3AH

AND REPLACE BY
The Governor and Company of the
Bank of Scotland
PO Box No 5
Edinburgh EH1 1YZ

The following change has taken place in the entry for 'Arbuthnot Securities Ltd'
in the 'Name of scheme' column

DELETE
Jascot Preference Share Fund

AND REPLACE BY
Arbuthnot Preference Share Fund

The following change has taken place in the entry for 'Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd'
in the 'Name of scheme' column

DELETE
Gartmore Capital Fund

AND REPLACE BY
Gartmore Commodity Share Unit Trust

The following change has taken place in the entry for 'New Court Fund Managers Ltd'
in the 'Name of scheme' column

DELETE
The New Court Equity Fund

AND REPLACE BY
New Court Equity Fund

Record weekly opencast coal output announced

Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, announced on 3 December that the Central (East) region of the National Coal Board Opencast Executive had achieved a new record of production.

Speaking during a visit to the Shipley South opencast coal site and to the Shipley Leisure Park, formerly the Shipley Lake opencast site, in Derbyshire, Mr Eadie said: 'Last week the region covering Nottingham, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire produced 108,180 tons of coal. This beats the region's previous highest weekly tonnage established last September.

'Opencast coal has a very valuable contribution to make to a prosperous coal industry. Opencast output increased by 1 million tons to just over 10 million tons last year. This year it is likely to be over 11 million tons.

'These indigenous energy resources are money in the bank for Britain. Opencast coal is saving money on our balance of payments.

Bob Cryer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, with machine operator Ken Matthews at Excel Mould and Tool Co Ltd, New Addington, Surrey. The company manufactures moulds for the rubber and plastics industries. Mr Cryer, who has special reponsibility for small firms, visited five firms in the London area recently.

Trawler 'Wyre Victory' – formal investigation

The public formal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the loss of the trawler *Wyre Victory* opened on 1 December, at North Euston Hotel, The Esplanade, Fleetwood.

The wreck commissioner is Mr B. Sheen.

The *Wyre Victory*, a Fleetwood trawler, stranded on some off-shore rocks near the Oigh-sgeir Light (between Rhum and Barra) on her way to the Icelandic fishing grounds on 14 January 1976.

The crew of 18 were rescued by a sister trawler, the *Wyre Conqueror*, but the *Wyre Victory* sank about four hours after grounding on the rocks.

North Sea platforms on the phone

The Post Office has opened a public telephone service to the Occidental Consortium's Piper platform in the North Sea.

Piper, located 175km (110 miles) north-east of Aberdeen, is the first customer for the Post Office radio station at Fraserburgh and the second North Sea platform to have automatic telephone service to Britain's inland network, and from there to other countries. First on the line in January this year was Mobil's Beryl platform – 150km (95 miles) east of the Shetlands.

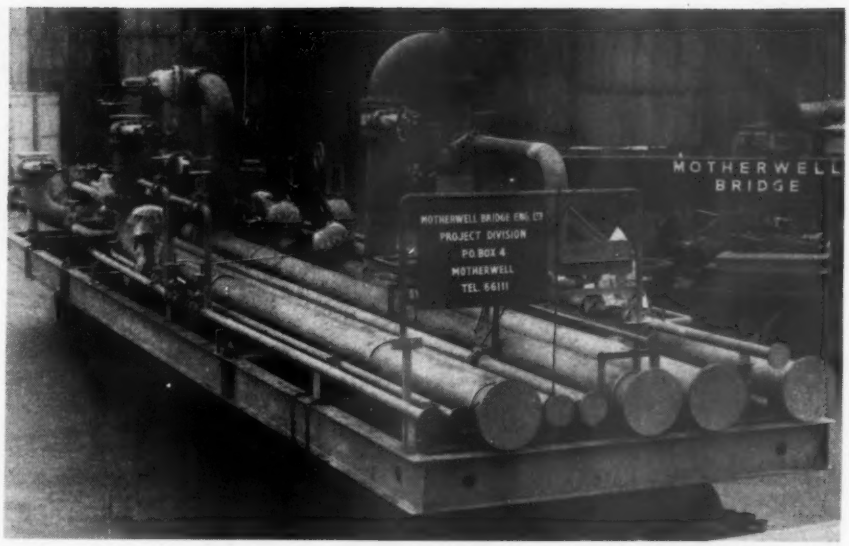
Potato price report published

The latest monthly report on potato prices and distributors' margins, has been submitted to Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, by the Price Commission.

Replying to a parliamentary question on 2 December from George Rodgers (Chorley), Mr Hattersley said:

'A report covering September and the first fortnight in October has now been received and I am arranging for copies to be placed in the library. It points out that in this period supplies to the market were much lower than last year and retail prices were exceptionally high. It attributes the high prices to successive poor crops caused by the drought and pressure from increased costs of production and distribution. As a result, consumption has been greatly reduced. Nevertheless, distributors' cash and percentage margins both remained reasonably constant throughout the period: cash margins were a little higher than in August but percentage margins were little changed and returned to their August level by the first two weeks in October.'

Copies of the report are available from the Price Commission, Neville House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LS. Tel. 01-222 8020.



First of two Desalter process equipment skids leave the Motherwell Bridge Engineering factory for the Orkney Islands. Each skid weighs 40 tons and is about 60 ft in length. They will be used as process units on the Occidental of Scotland Inc. – Claymore field storage terminal at Flotta. The projects division of Motherwell Bridge Engineering Ltd has a further eight modules to supply to complete a contract worth over £100,000 from Bechtel International Ltd. Motherwell Bridge Engineering has been working on the island of Flotta since 1974. The storage tank division is building Europe's largest storage tanks for the Claymore Field to store 2 million barrels of crude oil. In addition 2½ million barrel storage tanks for crude oil and 200,000 barrel storage tanks for L.P.G. from the Piper Field have been completed.

25kg weights

With the passing of the Weights and Measures, etc., Act 1976 weights of 25kg become lawful for use for trade. Regulations – the Weights (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No 1981 – have been made to define the special shape of these weights so that they can be readily distinguished from other weights.

Weights of 25kg are expected to be used in those sectors where packaging or bagging has been in quantities of 56 lb or 1 cwt when they change over to the metric system. To weigh out quantities of 25kg would have otherwise required combinations of smaller weights, and the newly authorised weight will ease the conversion process.

The regulations come into force on 22 December, and weights manufacturers will then be able to submit weights of 25kg to inspectors for testing with a view to stamping. Thereafter they will be available for sale.

Clearance of merger proposal

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

William Press and Son Ltd and James Scott Engineering Group Ltd.

New certifying authority for offshore installations

Halcrow, Ewbank and Associates Certification Group have been appointed certifying authorities for the certification of offshore installations announced Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy on 25 November.

Dr Mabon was replying to a parliamentary question from Ian Campbell (Dunbartonshire West). He said:

'When my right hon friend's predecessor (Eric Varley) announced the appointment of the present five certifying authorities, he also said that he was considering making a limited number of further appointments from among consulting engineers. The reason was not dissatisfaction with the certifying authorities whom he had just appointed but a wish to bring groups based on civil engineering expertise directly into the field of certification, as well as ship classification societies.

'My right hon friend is accordingly appointing Halcrow, Ewbank and Associates Certification Group as a certifying authority under the provisions of the Offshore Installations (Construction and Survey) Regulations 1974. The group has been formed by Sir William Halcrow and Partners with Ewbank and Partners Ltd, Harris and Sutherland, Burness, Corlett and Partners Ltd, and Messrs Sandberg.

'Following representations from the Association of Consulting Engineers on such further appointments, it was agreed that the association should set up an independent committee comprising members nominated by the presidents of the principal engineering institutions which would draw up a very limited list of candidates from among consulting engineers for my right hon friend's consideration. In agreeing to this course, the then parliamentary under-secretary of state said that to ensure new appointees were measured against the same standards as those used to assess the suitability of the present five certifying authorities, our Offshore Installations Technical Advisory Committee would independently have to assess the suitability of those put forward.

'The independent committee was led by Professor Sir Owen Saunders and put forward, in strict confidence, a limited list of candidates as requested. I must emphasise that we recognise, as did the independent committee that there are other fully competent organisations apart from those put forward. However my right hon friend concluded that the volume of new certification work at present expected justified the appointment of only one new certifying authority.

'The five organisations from which the new group has been formed are all independent professional firms who are bound by rules of professional conduct to act completely independently of commercial interests, and to behave with financial integrity and impartiality. We are confident that this forms a proper basis for the new certifying group to perform the functions of a certifying authority for offshore installations on the UK Continental Shelf and that the appointment of this group as a further certifying authority will, together with the present five certifying authorities, further enhance our reputation in setting the highest standards of safety in offshore petroleum operations.'

Reports of Nedo sector working parties

Summaries of the main recommendations of Nedo sector working parties for several industries – together with government action taken – were published in *Trade and Industry* 26 November, page 578. Summaries for further industries are published here.

Wool textiles

Recommendation: There should be a positive response to the proposals put to government by the EDC for further financial assistance under the Industry Act to encourage mergers.
Action: An announcement on a second stage scheme of assistance will be made shortly.

Recommendation: There is an urgent need for stricter controls over imports of garments. For example in the case of fashion goods, a provisional duty might be applied while the disruption of the market is investigated, or the onus of proof in case of alleged dumping could be put on the importer; or importers might be required at the time of ordering to put down a deposit on the foreign currency required. Alternatively, or in addition, pressure might be brought to bear by the industry on retailers or the public to exercise discrimination.
Action: The Department of Industry is engaged on a policy review of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement. The government has been in close touch with the industry and unions in formulating its policy and will continue to do so. On dumping, the Department of Trade has reviewed its procedures to ensure that within the spirit of the relevant legislation and the UK's international obligations cases are handled as quickly as possible but it depends heavily on industry to supply it with the requisite information. In all countries anti-dumping action envisages a process of investigation and proof and the UK Department of Trade's record as regards time is good in relation to that of other countries.

Recommendation: There is an urgent need for stricter control over imports of woollen fabrics and support should be given to the representations being made to the EEC commission by the Woollen and Worsted Trades Federation.
Action: The Department of Industry has always expressed its willingness to support the WWTF provided they can produce evidence to substantiate a case. The commission have recommended in favour of the WWTF pursuing with HMG the possibility of action under article 135 of the Treaty of Accession and it will depend on the evidence which the industry intends to submit whether an application to the EEC commission would be justified.

Recommendation: There should be a re-examination of the requirements for labelling imported textiles.
Action: The Trades Description Act 1968 is now under review and this will enable the government to consider the scope of the order-making powers in this field.

Recommendation: The government in direct trade negotiations and through embassies should make further efforts to reduce tariffs and other barriers against British textile exports.
Action: The government will certainly attempt to secure reductions in the US and Japanese tariffs on textiles in the context of tariff negotiations in the Gatt.

Recommendation: The ECGD should be more sympathetic to the industry and in particular give a quicker response to new inquiries and raise the discretionary limits.
Action: Extra discretionary limits introduced last December will be kept under review. The ECGD has written to the industry.

Recommendation: Interest rates which are higher than those which the industry's competitors have to pay should be reduced if necessary by introducing differential rates which favour manufacturing industry. There is also a case for giving preferential treatment for working capital for exports, particularly, for example, over finance for imports of consumer goods.
Action: Given the complexity and sophistication of our financial markets it would be extremely difficult to devise any scheme of two-tier interest rates. In particular it would be difficult to police any separation of home and overseas borrowers. The alternative, a broad subsidy to industrial borrowing costs, would mean an enormous increase in the public sector borrowing requirements.

Recommendation: There should be an urgent examination of the impact of the imminent increases in water and effluent charges on the industry's competitiveness and a comparison of these charges with those borne by the industry's competitors in the EEC, with a view to securing immediate relief and eventual harmonisation of such charges in the EEC.
Action: The industry's proposals for providing relief are being looked at as a matter of urgency by the Departments of Industry and Environment who are also looking at the wider implications and at the recommendation on the harmonisation within the EEC of water supply and trade effluent charges.

Recommendation: There should be a reduction in corporation tax to enable firms to retain more of their profits for re-investment.
Action: There is not much scope for increasing incentives through the present tax system. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer pointed out in his budget statement of 6 April, substantially the whole of any profits which a manufacturing company invests in its business whether in fixed or working capital will effectively be relieved from corporation tax. The most important incentives are the 100 per cent first year allowance for expenditure on plant and machinery and the scheme for stock appreciation relief.

The EDC is continuing its examination of the industry and further reports and recommendations can be expected to follow in due course.

Knitwear

Recommendation: The MFA should be renegotiated for a ten-year period, taking account of suggestions made by the sector working party.
Action: The Department of Industry is engaged on a policy review of the MFA in consultation with the industry and unions.

Recommendation: Assistance should be given to new or would-be exporters.
Action: Substantial assistance is already given to exporters by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Department of Trade. The second-stage Industrial Strategy work seeks to identify ways of increasing export market shares, and further opportunities for useful assistance may be identified by the SWP in this exercise.

Recommendation: There should be orderly control of disruptive imports from EEC Associate member states.
Action: The government is providing information to the SWP on the safeguard provisions which permit the community to deal with problems caused by disruptive imports. Action on cotton yarn imports from Turkey and Greece was taken in 1974-75 under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement. The government remains ready to take action against disruptive imports when it considers that a compelling case can be demonstrated.

Recommendation: Imported goods should indicate home market price and origin marking to assist the speedy implementation of anti-dumping regulations.
Action: The Trades Descriptions Act 1968 is now under review and this will enable the government to consider the scope of the order-making powers in this field. (The Trade Descriptions Act 1972 already requires that a conspicuous indication of the country of origin must accompany any UK name or mark which is applied to imported goods).
Consideration is also being given to the possibility of requiring home market price to be marked on import documents, and meanwhile the SWP have invited trade associations to provide more detailed information to substantiate their application for changes.

Recommendation: Anti-dumping procedure should be speeded up and made more effective, for example, by placing the burden of proof on the exporting country or the importer. Wider use to be made of provisional duty orders.
Action: The Department of Industry is providing information for the SWP on the operation of UK anti-dumping procedures and on the transfer of responsibility for anti-dumping to the EEC commission in 1977. The government has reviewed its own procedures to ensure that action is taken as quickly as possible, and the Department of Trade's anti-dumping unit has been greatly strengthened. Nevertheless, the government depends heavily on industry to supply all the requisite information before action can be taken and provisional duty orders imposed.

Recommendation: A more positive attitude to risk bearing is sought from the ECGD in order to reduce lost export orders.
Action: ECGD has replied that their overall limits on cover for particular markets would not normally affect knitting products which are sold on a short-term credit basis. The sector working party is considering the problem further.

Recommendation: An export agency should be created to help small firms with documentation, etc, possibly developing into selling consortia.
Action: The Department of Industry is in contact with the industry to examine the possibilities of providing aid to initiate co-operative action by small firms.

Recommendation: The banks should consider providing pre-shipment finance for exporters.
Action: A detailed response to this recommendation has been sent to the sector working party by ECGD, and further discussion is taking place to identify what improvements would be of particular value to the industry.

Printing machinery

Short term recommendations:

Recommendation: Assistance to the industry under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 should be introduced at the earliest possible date.
Action: These arrangements were launched on 13 August 1976.

Recommendation: Financial institutions should be encouraged to regard stock appreciation tax relief as shareholders' funds rather than contingent liabilities of a company when considering the amount of short/medium term loans which they might prudently advance.
Action: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his budget statement, announced that stock appreciation relief would be continued in broadly the same form for a further two years and made clear his intention to introduce a permanent scheme of relief as soon as possible. Thus for the great majority of companies stock relief implied a deferral of tax into the indefinite future. At the same time there has been a great deal of discussion within the accountancy profession on how far deferred tax should be shown in company accounts and the government has contributed to this through its representatives on the Morpeth Committee and the Accounting Standards Committee. As a result the Accounting Standards Committee has now deferred the implementation of the accounting standard, which would have required full deferred tax accounting, pending a thorough review. There is every prospect that the eventual outcome will be satisfactory to all concerned.

Recommendation: Assistance should be provided for stockbuilding by manufacturers of vital materials and components and the Accelerated Projects Scheme should be extended to give priority assistance to manufacturers of such products.
Action: Priority has been given to such products in the allocation of funds under the Accelerated Projects Scheme. This scheme was of limited duration and it was not considered appropriate to extend it. However, the Department of Industry is putting forward proposals for a further use of the powers under section 8 of the Industry Act

1972 to stimulate new investment in areas requiring particular improvements. The government take the view that in general funds from public resources are better devoted to encouraging fixed investment than to financing additions to stocks for which finance is generally available on commercial terms. But the government has made available an additional £50 million to enable the BSC to increase stocks of semi-finished steel.

Recommendation: Fiscal and monetary policies should be designed to produce prospective improvement in aggregate demand at an orderly and sustainable pace.
Action: As the white paper, 'An Approach to Industrial Strategy' (Cmnd 6315), made clear, the government have accepted the need for a stable economic policy environment so that industry can have the confidence to exploit opportunities for expansion. While they cannot guarantee that other objectives or constraints will not from time to time require or compel policy changes which affect industry, they have undertaken that more weight will be given to industrial needs, and more consistently than hitherto.

Recommendation: ECGD to give automatic cover (with upper limits) to customers with good claims records.
Action: ECGD has explained the modifications introduced earlier this year to the credit limit provisions of its comprehensive Short Term Guarantees. The effect of these modifications is that in the short term field, not only have attempts been made to speed decisions, but to some extent ECGD already operates in the manner suggested: policyholders are able to transact business without obtaining a formal credit limit approval from ECGD in respect of each and every buyer. But ECGD has stated that where larger items are concerned and covered by its supplemental extended terms guarantees, it must approve an application for cover for every contract in order to assess and control the risks it undertakes.

Recommendation: Restrict the 100 per cent first year depreciation allowance to investment in new equipment and machinery only.
Action: Acceptance of this recommendation is ruled out by the commitment given by the Chancellor in his budget statement to maintain the present system of 100 per cent first year depreciation allowances in the interests of maintaining a stable tax environment for industry. Moreover the Inland Revenue have provided a detailed explanation of other practical and policy reasons why the recommendation could not be accepted.

Medium term recommendations

Recommendation: To consider assistance for smaller firms wishing to employ consultants.
Action: The new section 8 arrangements referred to in the first recommendation set out above include provisions for assistance to small firms wishing to employ consultants to advise on their operational efficiency.

Recommendation: To consider the means by which the 'marketing' of the various forms of aid and assistance to industry could be improved.
Action: Details of the new section 8 arrangements have been circulated to all firms and trade associations in the industry and officials of the Department of Industry are in regular contact with firms in the industry concerning other forms of government aid available to them.

Recommendation: To consider the desirability of certifying machinery which complies with Health and Safety at Work legislation.
Action: The Health and Safety Commission propose to set up a number of industry based advisory committees within the framework of their advisory structure to consider the various problems, including SWP recommendations, relating to safety and health within their industries.

Recommendation: To consider a large scale publicity campaign to attract young people to work in industry and demonstrate the priority which government now places on a prosperous manufacturing sector.
Action: It is mainly for industry to ensure that young people are made fully aware of the career opportunities which industry can offer. Careers advice is provided in schools and by the Employment Service Agency. In addition there is a wide range of activities carried out by government and other bodies to promote understanding of industry and industrial careers. The government made it clear in the white paper (Cmnd 6315) that they intend to give greater priority to the needs of manufacturing industry, and they have confirmed this on repeated occasions since then.

Clothing

Following is a summary of the recommendations to government together with an outline of the action so far. The sector working party's continuing work on market objectives should lead to further requirements and responses, particularly with regard to the recommendations on exports.

Recommendation: Government policies should ensure that no sudden increase in consumers' expenditure occurs and the banks should be encouraged to give priority to lending for working capital and investment as against consumer expenditure.
Action: Guidance has already been given to the banks to give priority to the needs of industry. More generally, the government has recognised the need for a balanced expansion of the economy.

Recommendation: The government should consider what further action can be taken to assist exporters, by eg direct assistance for expenditure on design and marketing, or higher rates of grant under the Industry Act Scheme for exporting companies.
Action: The Clothing Scheme is under review. It already provides some assistance for marketing.

A detailed reply to this recommendation is being prepared by the Department of Trade, but the government's initial view is that industry cannot expect to be relieved of the normal and necessary costs of doing business abroad.

Recommendation: The Multi-Fibre Arrangement should be renegotiated to make it more effective. Burden-sharing between the developed nations to be examined.
Action: The Department of Industry is engaged on a policy review of the MFA in consultation with the industry and unions.

Recommendation: The period of application for Temporary Employment Subsidy may need to be extended. Companies for whom payment of the TES will be discontinued before the end of the period for applications should be entitled to apply for three-monthly extensions of the subsidy.
Action: The government introduced the Temporary Employment Subsidy in August 1975 as a purely temporary measure. The period of subsidy for individual firms has already been extended from six to 12 months and no further extension is contemplated. The government is now considering whether there is a need to extend the scheme in some form beyond the end of 1976.

Recommendation: Government should urgently consider the recommendations for modifications to the Industry Act Scheme the EDC made at its 30 June meeting.
Action: The Department of Industry has had further discussions with the EDC about their recommendation and is considering whether changes could be introduced.

Recommendation: Anti-dumping procedures should be speeded up and more rigorously applied, eg by placing the onus of proof on the importer, by imposing provisional duty orders, by setting a time limit on investigations or by simplifying criteria for establishing disruption.
Action: The Department of Industry is providing information for the SWP on the operation of UK anti-dumping procedures and on the transfer of responsibility for anti-dumping to the EEC commission in 1977. The government has reviewed its own procedures to ensure that action is taken as quickly as possible, and the Department of Trade's anti-dumping unit has been greatly strengthened. Nevertheless, the government depends heavily on industry to supply all the requisite information before action can be taken and provisional duty orders imposed.

Ferrous foundries

Recommendation: Means should be found by the Department of the Environment to smooth demand for emission control equipment.
Action: The Department of Industry and the Department of the Environment have discussed the timing of regulations and their impact on the demands for such equipment so as to help to meet the recommendation.

Recommendation: The Health and Safety at Work Act should be implemented, taking into account the overall investment plans of foundries.
Action: The Health and Safety Executive, whose inspectorates have a statutory duty to enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act and its relevant statutory provisions, have considered the recommendation and what can be done about it. Their response is now with Nedo. Meanwhile the Executive's inspectorates are co-operating with the industry within the forum of the Joint Standing Committee on Health, Safety and Welfare in Foundries. The Health and Safety Commission intend to set up an Industry Advisory Committee for the foundry industry.

Recommendation: The EDC recommends that consultation should take place with employees' representatives when financial support is being applied for and that the names of recipient firms should be published.
Action: Consultation has taken place on nearly all the projects for which assistance has been approved.

A list of companies whose projects had been approved was published in *Trade and Industry* on 20 August 1976. Offers of assistance will be published in *Trade and Industry* in the first quarter following that in which the first payment is made. The first such list was published on 22 October 1976.

Recommendation: Vigilance is needed to ensure that no irregular exports of scrap take place.
Action: HM Customs and Excise are alive to this danger and will undertake further investigation as appropriate.

Drop forgings

Recommendation: More manpower planning at company level with particular emphasis on recruitment, training and upgrading of skilled workers and of middle management is needed. The Engineering Industry Training Board should be asked what assistance it might give in this respect.
Action: The sector working party is to discuss this further to identify more precisely what assistance is needed before an approach is made to the Engineering Industry Training Board.

Recommendation: Consideration should be given to the need for further financial assistance to encourage increased capacity for the production of die blocks.
Action: It has been established that there is no shortage of capacity in this area.

Recommendation: The government should provide additional financial assistance to that already available to enable firms to:

1 invest in new productive equipment and buildings;
2 improve working conditions and general operating environment;
3 develop the most efficient production and commercial practices;
4 attract and retain skilled labour and other qualified manpower in the industry.

Action: Assistance for further investment by some companies in the drop forging industry is already being provided under the Accelerated Projects Scheme. Discussions with the industry about the need for further assistance are continuing.

Recommendation: The government should bring to the notice of the Department of the Environment the possible damage to the industry if a too short term view is taken of noise abatement legislation.
Action: The Department of the Environment has explained that the guidance already given to local authorities, who are mainly responsible for implementing this legislation, stresses that in cases where a reduction in noise levels is desirable there should be full consultation with the companies concerned to establish that such a reduc-

tion is technically and financially practicable.

Recommendation: Government should assist the industry in obtaining information on the type and source of imported drop forgings.
Action: A detailed breakdown of these imports during the last quarter of 1975 has been provided to the industry.

Organic chemicals

Recommendation: Government and companies should together consider the construction of a gas gathering pipeline network to bring to the UK mainland the natural gases in Northern North Sea oil fields.
Action: The Secretary of State for Energy will shortly be making an announcement in the light of the comments received from industry and other interested parties on the consultation document published in May.

Recommendation: The costs of energy, particularly electricity, to the organic chemicals industry should be examined to establish whether or not prices charged within the UK deter new investment.
Action: The National Economic Development Office is in touch with Departments of Industry and Energy about this.

Recommendation: The government should consider how the provision of port facilities and other infrastructure could be used to increase the attractions of the UK as an investment location.
Action: Consideration of siting questions for large chemical developments is continuing.

Recommendation: The procedures relating to physical planning should be reformed so as not to deter new and substantial investment in the UK.
Action: New guidelines for local authorities are currently under consideration.

Recommendation: Government, the training boards for the process industries and educational institutions should together make a careful assessment of the future UK needs, in relation to current output, of professionally qualified engineers and scientists.
Action: Not all the available places in scientific and engineering disciplines at the institutions of higher education have been taken up and the educational authorities are doing what they can to encourage suitable students to take these courses. Further detailed consideration is being given to this matter.

Recommendation: Urgent consideration should be given to how, in addition to completion of two crackers before 1985 to meet UK expected growth of consumption, construction can be begun as soon as possible of two ethylene crackers, provided these are commercially viable, to allow increased exports to derivatives needed to achieve the strategy objective of the petrochemical part of the sector.
Action: The Secretary of State for Industry made a statement to the House on the government's petrochemical strategy on 10 November. The government is in discussion with major companies on specific proposals.

Recommendation: Government, management and trade unions should actively seek to promote the climate of confidence that is needed if the UK is to increase its attractiveness as a location for new investment.
Action: The government has made it clear that the object of the industrial strategy is to shift the emphasis in our policies to the support of manufacturing industry. Among other things we have undertaken to ensure that the public sector does not pre-empt resources which are needed for investment and exports; and that full account is taken of the industrial implications of fiscal and monetary measures and of public expenditure.

Recommendation: The management view is that government policies to contain inflation, in particular the Price Code, should take account of the investment requirements of the organic chemicals sector's strategy. The trade unions do not see availability of finance as a general constraint, but would not wish to see projects of benefit to the UK economy held back through lack of finance.
Action: The weight of sector working party opinion was a factor in the modifications to the Price Code which were introduced on 1 August this year.

Process plant fabrications

Recommendation: The government was asked to develop a comprehensive energy policy looking at least 20 years ahead, and a programme for development of the commercial fast reactor. It was also asked, in collaboration with suppliers and customer industries, to establish the volume of the main plant items and construction needed. In addition the government was asked to take an urgent set of decisions on power station orders, conventional and nuclear, as a short term measure to preserve the indigenous supply industry.
Action: The issues are the subject of a number of reviews being carried out by the Department of Energy and by the Central Policy Review Staff. The CPRS report, which is particularly concerned with possible short term measures to aid the supply industry, has recently been received by ministers and is under urgent consideration. The other reviews are being carried out as expeditiously as possible.

Recommendation: The government was urged to set terms of reference for nationalised industries, and to encourage other industries, to develop long term ordering programmes in consultation with suppliers and unions and to invest in reference plants with specifications compatible with overseas requirements. An early decision was particularly urged on the ordering of a strip mill at Port Talbot.
Action: The government has taken note of the recommendation about the development by nationalised industries of long term ordering programmes. A committee under Sir Raymond Brown is conducting a study of measures to help align nationalised industry specifications with overseas requirements for major items of plant and equipment bought by nationalised industries. The British Steel Corporation is urgently reviewing its proposal to build a strip mill at Port Talbot. Private sector customer industries are already encouraged to develop their ordering programmes through the auspices of Nedo machinery.

Recommendation: The government was asked to encourage the National Enterprise Board to share in the financial risk of large export projects; and to urge the Export Credits Guarantee Department to continue to develop its project participants insolvency cover and to make its support for performance bonds more fully available.
Action: The working party under Lord Seebohm is giving priority to the problems of excess risk attached to multi-million pound contracts and is no doubt aware of the NEB's potential capacity in this field. ECGD insolvency cover is now available in appropriate cases. The criteria relating to performance bonds have now been relaxed to make them more freely available.

Recommendation: Fabricators, their suppliers, bankers and the government were asked to explore ways of enabling the industry to win exports during periods of world overcapacity.
Action: This will be examined by the working party under Lord Seebohm set up by the Roll Committee.

Recommendation: Fabricators and government were aksed to discuss possibilities of greater support for the Welding Institute.
Action: The Department of industry is about to announce a revision of contract terms for all non-profit distributing research bodies which should help them to finance their capital expenditure.

Recommendation: The government was asked to take into account the need for productivity negotiations when considering future income policy proposals.
Action: The working party's recommendation will be taken into account in discussions about the pay arrangements for the period after July 1977.

Recommendation: The government was asked to seek further ways to reduce the impact of falling employment, eg by reducing the retirement age.
Action: Lowering of the retirement age to meet short term problems is not practicable but the Department of Employment has recently announced a Job Release Scheme aimed at enabling older workers, close to pensionable age, to leave employment and free jobs for younger unemployed people.

Recommendation: Management, unions and government were asked to take note of the overcapacity in process plant fabrications when deciding the future of the offshore yards.
Action: The government has noted this recommendation but the matter is mainly for the companies themselves.

Rubber processing

Recommendation: Government should consider making changes to administrative policies which would place the onus on source countries to prove that dumping is not taking place rather than the present practice which requires UK manufacturers to prove that dumping is taking place.
Action: Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Industry, said 'This is a matter for the Secretary of State for Trade, with whose department the burden of proof formally rests, though they must rely heavily on UK firms for information. The imposition of the burden of proof on to the supplier would require a change in international agreements and in UK legislation. The interests of industry remain a prime consideration of the government and we believe that these can better be pursued within the provisions of existing legislation through the close co-operation which exists between the Department of Trade and HM Customs and Excise. These two departments are now studying what information can be obtained and made available on home market prices of goods imported.

'As to the sector working party's other recommendations, the government is assisting where appropriate with their implementation.'

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

Home exhibitions

Duke of Kent to open international conference centre

A concert opening on Sunday, 5 December, for London's latest international conference centre. At Wembley the London Philharmonic Orchestra presented the first public event in the main auditorium. The official opening, on 31 January next, is to be by the Duke of Kent, vice chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The centre is by way of a final development in a brief that included: a 330 bedroom hotel, multi-storey car park for 1,400 cars, conference centre with main auditorium to seat 2,700 and a range of lecture theatres and committee rooms, a display area as an integral part of the conference centre of nearly 3,000m², and an office building.

To meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of the international conference the facilities provide for: simultaneous interpretation in all auditoria, speech reinforcement, talk-back facilities to enable delegate participation, projection rooms and equipment, full stage facilities, closed circuit television, special seating – fixed and moveable – a main auditorium, advanced catering provision. There has been special attention also to movement within the building – speedy registration, expeditious tea and coffee breaks, convenient access to the display area.

The first phase of the Wembley programme saw the building of the hotel and the multi-storey car park. The centre's display area was opened in September. Since then four major exhibitions with conferences using the smaller lecture theatres have been staged.

The new conference block has an overall diameter of 79.4m. The ceiling of the main auditorium is supported by raking beams with maximum spans of 12.35m rising from the lower rim around the apron stage. The beams cantilever a further 3.5m over the external columns and support the 'drum' wall. Below the main auditorium, the three levels of in situ frame construction contain plant and administration areas and two large lecture theatre suites. The drum wall is 180mm thick, cast in white ribbed concrete.

Total volume of the auditorium is 24,000 cu m. It is 60.96m wide and seating is arranged on a semi-circular plan for 2,700. The apron stage is on 12 lifts with removable seating.

The proscenium opening is 18.3m wide and 7.9m high. This can be completely filled with the largest projection screen in Britain. Adjustable acoustic discs are hung above the apron stage, eg above the orchestra. The ceiling height increases away from the central area to maintain sound levels and definition to all parts of the hall. The roof and suspended ceiling have been designed to prevent aircraft noise penetrating the auditorium.

Among those involved in the planning of the Wembley Conference Centre were: architects, Richard Seifert and Partners; consulting engineers, Pell Frischmann and Partners; quantity surveyors, Cyril Sweett and Partners. Wembley Stadium personnel concerned included: planning and development manager – Brian E. Hughes; Conference Centre manager – Ralph Miller; Conference Centre technical manager – Ernest Hall. George Stanton, Wembley's general manager (now retired) together with Albert Berger of Douglas Kershaw and Co, and, Mrs Fay Pannell of Conference Services played a major part in the preparation of the development brief.

Wembley Conference Centre's 2,700 seat main auditorium, seen here undergoing acoustic tests with the help of an invited audience and a local orchestra. The hall will be the scene of international conferences in medicine, science, building, engineering and many other categories when the centre opens fully for large-scale conferences on 31 January 1977.

Buyers meet suppliers offshore workshop

Opening its series of international business events for 1977 the Offshore Centre is holding 'A buyers meet suppliers' workshop on 8 and 9 February 1977 at London's Grosvenor House Hotel.

The Offshore Centre says that the workshop with its system of individual appointments creates the right conditions for buyers to widen their knowledge of sources of supply of equipment and services and suppliers to establish the right contacts with the buyers and initiate business.

Details from the Offshore Centre (February Workshop), 211 Regent Street, London W1R 8SR, tel. 01-439 9021.

New international for food processing

The first International Food Manufacturing and Processing Machinery Exhibition – Foodmach '77 – opens its doors at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 24 to 30 April, 1977

The event will feature such wide ranging industries as, electronics, engineering, computerisation, laboratory and safety. Sixty per cent of the stand space has already been reserved.

Exhibitions for Industry, 157 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, are the organisers.

Fast growing show for motor trade

The automotive components, accessories and vehicle servicing equipment exhibition, Autoquip, has doubled in size and number of exhibitiors in two years.

The organisers, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, report that stand space has grown to 1,116m² (12,000 sq ft) for next year's event (28 March to 1 April) at the Wembley Exhibition Centre. In 1975 the total was 521m² (5,600 sq ft).

The new site is already a sell out with 120 companies having taken space.

New products

UK lead in extrusion handling technology

Edwards of Enfield Ltd, reporting orders in excess of £500,000 for their new extrusion puller, forecast even greater export sales with the incorporation of an automated saw.

The new automated saw will cut aluminium and non-ferrous extrusions to a specified length with a high degree of accuracy. Edwards claim that the puller and saw together make possible, for the first time, complete automation of extrusion handling – with productivity gains of up to 30 per cent.

The system is completely British, designed and engineered by Edwards to ensure continuous production over an indefinite period, with easy maintenance by a customer's own personnel, after basic training by Edwards' technical representatives.

A total of 34 pullers have been sold to customers in the aluminium and non-ferrous metal industries in Australia, Japan, North, South and Central America, the Middle East and both Eastern and Western Europe. France and Yugoslavia are among the first countries to order the extended system.

Edwards of Enfield are specialist engineers to the world's aluminium and non-ferrous metal extrusion industries, designing and manufacturing 'down-line' extrusion handling equipment. The company's extrusion puller itself automatically grips the metal extrusion as it leaves the press, drawing it at pre-determined rates to a precise length. It is able to match the speed of the extrusion press with great accuracy, respond instantly to changes of speed, and apply variable tension up to a maximum load. The puller is powered by a specially designed linear motor capable of immediate braking at the end of the extrusion run, and with a high speed return to the take-up point ready for the next extrusion length.

Any extrusions produced from a 2,000-ton press can be handled, at rates up to 60 billets per hour, over a distance of 50m. The return speed is 6m per second, maximum, and sufficient to return in the 'dead' cycle time of the press.

Edwards of Enfield were established approximately 20 years ago and some 90 per cent of total production is exported. They currently operate from three purpose-built factory units in North London, while a further 10,000 sq ft building is to be started shortly.

Film aid

As part of the international marketing effort for the new extrusion puller, Edwards have also produced a short colour film explaining the workings of the system.

Jim Edwards, managing director of Edwards of Enfield, describes the film as a tool of marketing communication. 'To appreciate the benefits of the puller' he states, 'you've got to see it in action, but the aluminium industry in particular is so competitive that companies will not generally permit visitors inside their plants, and the situation is even more difficult when you're selling to international markets. The film has proved a really effective answer. It's worked as an international "blue-print", overcoming technical communication problems wherever it is used.'

The film was produced and directed by Paul Dickson, who has had wide experience in sponsored, feature and television documentaries.

New extrusion puller.

Monitoring system for signal analysis measurement

Eddystone Radio Ltd, a member of Marconi Communication Systems Ltd, a GEC-Marconi Electronics company, announce the availability of a new receiver package for VHF/UHF surveillance and monitoring.

The system consists of the 199OR VHF/UHF communications receiver, which is available in various forms to suit the customer's requirements, together with the EP961 Mark IIB panoramic receiver. The units are mounted in a compact cabinet and interconnected to form a system capable of both visually and aurally examining signals in the frequency range from 25MHz to 500MHz maximum. A range of omnidirectional discone aerials, ideal for use with the system, is also available.

An important feature of the system is the capability of the 199OR receiver to identify and lock to a signal at an accuracy of 100Hz.

The package has various applications, such as spectrum analysis (up to 10MHz sweep), band occupancy monitoring and signal analysis and measurement. Possible users say the company, include RF laboratories, broadcast authorities, security organisations, transmitter manufacturers and telecommunications authorities.

Improved electric resistance furnace

Morganite Thermal Designs Ltd, of Stourport-on-Severn, a subsidiary of The Morgan Crucible Company Ltd, announce that to conserve fuel, they have added, as standard equipment, a simple roll back cover for their electric resistance bale out furnace.

More than 300 of the furnaces have been sold. They are reported to have been particularly successful in Italy, Spain and West Germany.

The company claim that the secret of the success of the design is the ease with which the elements can be replaced in the event of failure. The elements are mounted in refractory panels arranged hexagonally around the crucible and supported in refractory columns. The panels simply slide out for element replacement.

Morgan electric resistance bale out furnaces are capable of melting up to 130kg/hr of aluminium or 580kg/hr of zinc. Hydraulic lip axis tilting versions are also available.

New release of bomb film

An upgraded version of Safetykling, Ozalid's safety film for protection against bomb blasts and industrial explosions is announced.

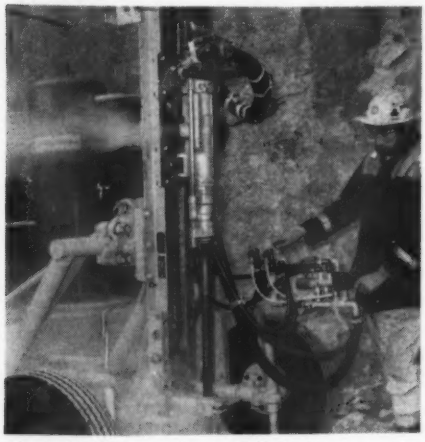
The product is a .002 in self-adhesive polyester film and according to the makers has been proven to provide greater adhesion to glass surfaces and a marked improvement in clarity.

Safetykling when applied to glass is flameproof, easy to maintain and is cleaned in the same way as a normal window.

Pneumatic drifter drill

A portable drifter mounting for drilling 50.8-88.9mm (2-3½ inch) lifter, breast and down holes in rock to a depth of about 18m (60 ft) is reported from Comp Air Construction and Mining Ltd of Camborne, Cornwall.

The required 1.8-3.0m (6 or 10 ft) steel change carriage is mounted to the cross member of a swing frame by a universal type clamp to give swing, dump and crowd movements. The tubular steel swing frame is manually raised and covered by a worm and screw gear.



CompAir Construction and Mining's pneumatic drifter drill.

The new Holman SL.1600 pneumatic drifter has reversible rifle bar rotation and a continuous air flushing system. Hammering, reverse rotation and flushing are independently operated from the control panel. An air powered front wheel drive can be fitted if required to assist hole to hole movement.

Processor systems for OEM markets

A multi-micro, diskette-based general purpose processor system aimed at the systems house and original equipment manufacturer markets has been launched by Transdata Ltd of Havant.

Called the CX 400, it has a high interfacing flexibility and applications areas range from word processing, communications and distributed processing to program storage, indexed filing systems and stand-alone business systems.

The basic CX 400 unit has twin Intel 8080 microprocessors with 2K ROM, 2K RAM, 8K of addressable memory and one diskette drive. In addition, there are four interface ports with programmable protocol and these are designed for use with a wide variety of peripherals and communications devices.

For transport industry

The latest Bowfort bulk packs – 'Interbulk' and 'Container Modules' – are among a complete range of Bowfort cases to be featured by Bowater Containers Ltd at the forthcoming Unit Load Show at the new Wembley Conference Centre (7 to 10 December).

The range has been developed specially to provide product protection together with maximum space utilisation, for all forms of transport – land, sea and air – at a realistic price.

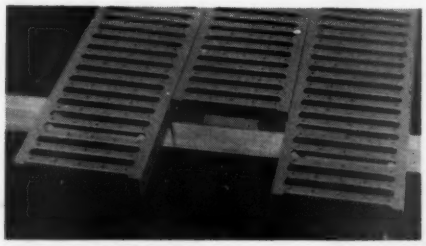
Interbulk is a low-cost intermediate bulk pack capable of carrying loads of over 1 tonne and suitable for granular or powdered products. Container Modules are designed to enable exporters and forwarding agents make the best use of standard ISO containers.

New for tankers

A new type N floodlight designed for the deck lighting of large oil tankers, oil refineries and rigs as well as area floodlighting of landbased Zone 2 locations. Awaiting BASEEFA approval, the floodlight consists of an enclosed reflector assembly and a control gear box, prewired, both cast in aluminium alloy. The reflector unit houses two 400W high pressure sodium lamps and an assymetrical polished aluminium reflector to give efficient light distribution for area floodlighting. A lighting package of 80,000 lumens is achieved – more than could previously be obtained by using two projectors each housing a 700W mercury discharge lamp.

Steel planking flooring

A flooring system employing cold-formed steel planks has been introduced by Link 51 Ltd, the storage and materials handling group. Called Link-Dek, the system consists of planks made from pre-galvanised steel which are designed to bolt together in various combinations using just one universal cleat.



New steel planking system.

Any required span or run of flooring can be assembled to provide non-slip open floors and walkways for slotted angle and boltless systems type storage platforms and multi-tiered racking structures. The system is also said to be suitable for use as stairway treads or in place of shelving panels on storage frameworks where extremely heavy load capacities are required. It offers strength durability, allows the effective use of sprinkler systems and is corrosive resistant.

The basic size of Link-Dek planking is 230mm (9 in) wide with a flange depth of 50mm (2 in). It is supplied in two standard lengths 1,368mm (4 ft 6 in) and 1,824mm (6 ft) and any special intermediate lengths required for make-up, based on increments of 38mm (1½ in). Standard lengths weigh 5.78kg (12¾lb) and 7.72kg (17lb) respectively.

Slim-line scanner for paper industry

Improved measurement and control of grammage and moisture are claimed for a heavy duty slim-line scanner for the paper industry which has been introduced by Nuclear Enterprises Ltd, of Beenham, near Reading.

The scanner is now offered with a microprocessor which incorporates the latest circuitry for measurement and control functions, complete with video and teletype displays.

All the features of the company's original slim-line scanner are retained in the new system. These include: air-gap temperature control, autostandardisation and an X-Y plotting recorder.

Improved measurement and control of grammage and moisture are achieved with the incorporation of a microprocessor in this new Scanner.

Technology news

Merseyside picks up steam

A new extension has been officially opened to the Merseyside power station on Bromborough Port industrial estate operated by UML Ltd, a Unilever services company. This is a dual energy station which produces both steam and electricity at an overall thermal efficiency of 78-80 per cent.

Located centrally on the industrial estate, the station provides steam supplies to some 15 local companies and the electricity requirements of nearly 50, seven of which are Unilever factories.

Steam is produced in boilers at higher pressures and temperatures than those required for process and space heating purposes. It is then reduced to those conditions by passing it through the turbines, which drive electricity generators, before piping to the factories.

Success of the operation depends on maintaining a proper balance between the total steam and electricity production demanded by consumers. Changing demands require alterations to the ratio of steam and power produced at any given time, as well as increases in capacity.

When originally built in 1958 the station provided 150 tonne per hour of process steam and 14MW of electricity. The 1966 extension added some 77 tonne per hour of steam and over 13MW of electricity, while the present extension effectively provides a further 5.4MW of electricity for the same steam output. However, it also permits production of an additional 79 tonne per hour of steam to process, which can be used either to meet future increases in demand or for standby in the event of emergencies.

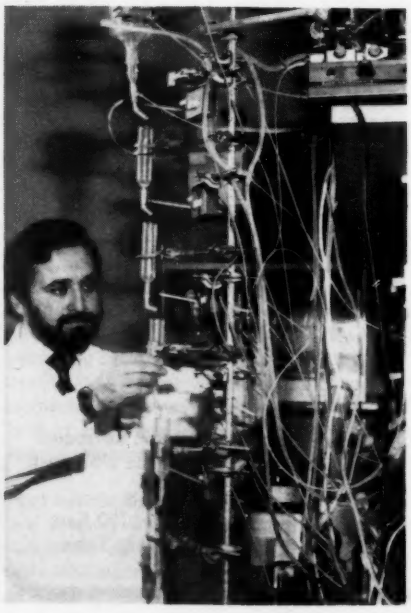
The new extension comprises one high pressure boiler, one 5MW back pressure turbine generator and an associated demineralisation water treatment plant of 98,000 litres per hour capacity, together with ancillary plant and equipment representing a total investment of £2½ million.

Environmental aspects were important considerations in the design of the station. Not only does the dual role avoid the need for the cooling towers normally associated with electricity generation, but the concentration of production in this kind of plant ensures better combustion control with only three high chimneys, rather than a multitude of small ones with associated low level pollution.

To ensure maximum flexibility the station is connected to the Manweb system, electricity being imported at times of shortfall in generation and exported when there is a surplus.

Isolating a hormone

Apparatus used in the discovery and isolation of a hormone generated in the walls of human blood vessels, called prostaglandin X which, in healthy arteries, prevents the formation of blood clots. At the Wellcome Foundation, London, this is regarded as a fundamental discovery, although the research team have not yet been able to produce a medicine. In theory it might be possible to reinforce the prostaglandin X in the body, or to find a chemical that will inhibit the white blood cells from clustering together inside the artery.



Skylark 12 success

A new three-stage Skylark research rocket which can carry scientific payloads three times as high as earlier versions, was successfully launched on 21 November by a British Aircraft Corporation team in Norway. Known as Skylark 12, it is the first of two to be launched in the British Science Research Council's campaign at the Andoya range.

The rocket travelled to a height of some 500 miles (800km) carrying a payload of 304 lb (138kg). Good telemetry data was received at the ground receiving stations for 15 minutes of the flight.

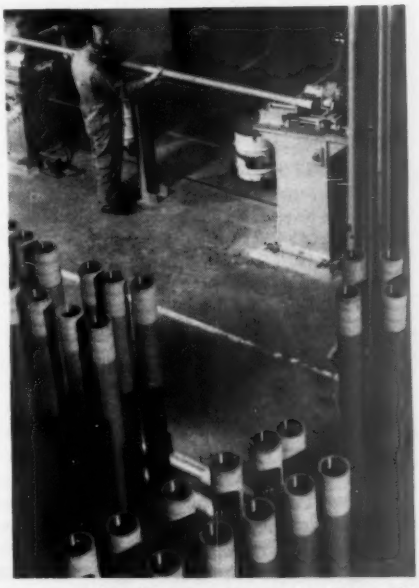
Skylark 12's unique weight lifting and altitude performance is at present unequalled by any other research rocket and its success represents a significant advance since the first Skylark was launched in 1957. It is now possible to carry scientific payloads of up to 400 lb (181kg) to altitudes of 500 miles (800km).

On this occasion Skylark 12 carried experiments to further scientific investigation into auroral phenomena, prepared by the Science Research Council's Appleton laboratory, the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, University College, London, and the Universities of Southampton and Sussex.

The improved performance of Skylark 12 has been recognised in Germany which has ordered four of the rockets. These and three more British Skylark 12s for the Science Research Council are programmed for launching from Andoya in the autumn of 1977 as part of an international collaborative Auroral Study Programme centred on GEOS – Europe's first geostationary scientific satellite.

Telephone calls on impulse

Millimetric waveguide being manufactured in 3m lengths at BICC, Prescot. The new system, which consists of a piece of glass reinforced plastic tube, about the diameter of a car exhaust, with fine copper wire running round the inside, will carry telephone calls, television programmes, facsimile services and computer data. The wave pattern of telephone speech is converted by digital transmission into 'on-off' electrical impulses, which makes more effective use of cabling. It also only needs a repeater, to boost the signal, every 20km compared with the 2km of conventional cables.



Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

T. W. Hawes, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4HL. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

R. A. Bounds, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Three Crowns House, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NJ Tel. 0223 68801. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Parliament

Monday, 29 November

Concorde

Russell Kerr (Hounslow, Feltham and Heston) asked: 'What are the Secretary of State for Industry's current arrangements for handling the Concorde project now the aircraft is in airline service?'

Mr Varley replied: 'Responsibility for policy on all civil aerospace projects rests with me. The general arrangement is that I call upon the resources of the Ministry of Defence (Procurement Executive) for advice and for detailed execution of the civil programme within agreed policies. However up till now Concorde has been the exception to these general arrangements in that day-to-day technical control of work on the airframe and day-to-day financial control on both airframe and engine have been handled directly by my department, mostly through staff on loan from the Ministry of Defence. Now that Concorde has been successfully in airline service for some months it has been decided that the general arrangements on civil projects should apply also to Concorde. Therefore with effect from 1 December 1976 the Ministry of Defence (Procurement Executive) will handle, on behalf of my department, all day-to-day technical and financial control related to the project in the same way as they do for other civil aircraft and aeroengine projects. This leaves unaltered the government's policy on the project and my overall responsibility for it.'

British Aerospace and British Shipbuilding

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked: 'What has been the cost to public funds, to 22 November 1976, of the organising committee of the proposed nationalised companies, British Aerospace and British Shipbuilding.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The cost to public funds of the organising committees for the British Aerospace Corporation and the British Shipbuilders Corporation up to 22 November 1976 is estimated to be £393,675.'

Planning agreements

Mr Grylls asked for confirmation: 'That it is not and will not be government policy to seek to make compulsory planning agreements with British companies.'

'As the government has made clear on a number of occasions the government believe that planning agreements should be voluntary,' said Mr Williams. 'Despite the disappointing lack of progress so far, I am still hopeful that industry will respond to this approach. The government have no present plans to introduce legislation to make planning agreements compulsory.'

Wool textile industry

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked for a statement about further support for the wool textile industry.

Mr William's reply was published in *Trade and Industry*, 3 December, page 634.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Common Fund for Commodity Stabilisation

Cyril D. Townsend (Bexley, Bexleyheath) asked what preparations are being made by the Secretary of State for Trade, for the conference in 1977 on the Common Fund for Commodity Stabilisation.

'We shall play a constructive part in the Unctad meeting, which starts today, to prepare for next year's negotiating conference,' said Mr Meacher.

Profit margins

Giles Shaw (Pudsey) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection is satisfied with the present level of profit margins in manufacturing industry generally, and in the food industry.

Mr Maclennan answered: 'The latest quarterly report of the Price Commission showed a significant improvement in profit margins in manufacturing industry, with average margins in the food and drink sector closer to reference levels than the average for all industries.'

Cross-Channel car ferry services

John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked for a further statement about the progress being made towards implementation of the recommendations of the Monopolies Commission's report on cross-Channel car ferry services.

Mr Fraser said: 'The House will recall that on 18 December 1975 the then Minister of State made a statement about the progress made in implementing the recommendations made in the Monopolies Commission's report on cross-Channel car ferry services. He then said that he was asking the director general to continue negotiations with the United Kingdom operators.

'One of the commission's recommendations was that when any application for an increase was being considered the possibility of introducing improvements in the fare structure should be reviewed, in particular the possibility of introducing modifications, which, while having regard to social considerations, would give greater recognition to the differences in costs associated with differences in demand within the summer period.

'The director general has reached agreement with the operators that they will introduce a system of "weekend surcharges" in the peak summer season of 1977. The arrangements, which involve amendments to the three-tier tariff agreed a year ago, divide the year into a "summer season" (4 July to 4 September) and a "standard season" (the remainder of the year). During the "standard season" the operators will, as in 1976, be free to charge reduced rates at periods of low demand. During the "summer season" the operators will charge car rates which will not be less than 120 per cent of the rates charged during that part of the standard season immediately preceding the "summer season". Within the "summer season" there will be a "peak summer season" (15 July to 27 August) during which the rates charged for cars travelling on Fridays and Saturdays will be not less than 140 per cent of the rates charged during that part of the standard season immediately preceding the "summer season". However, the weekend surcharges will not apply on Sundays or to motorists who both book and pay for their "peak weekend" journeys before 1 May 1977. There are no agreed differentials on passenger fares but the operators are free to make seasonal variations in these fares if they wish. The operators are simplifying the arrangements for charging for cars according to length. I have agreed to

changes in the maximum rates and fares to be charged which reflect both the new structure I have described and changes in costs. The new arrangements will apply to all reference services from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich and Newhaven except that British Rail Hovercraft will be free if they wish to operate a longer "summer season" on their Dover-Boulogne service. British Rail's Newhaven-Dieppe service will follow broadly the same pattern as their other sea ferry routes. Slightly different arrangements will apply to services from Southampton where the "weekend surcharges" on car rates will apply to night services only on Fridays and Saturdays in the peak summer season. Daytime sailings will be charged at the summer season rates.

'The new arrangements will help ensure that those who travel at the peak times of the year will meet the extra costs of providing the capacity needed to convey them. Motorists will have incentives either to travel in June or September, that is to say before or after the main summer season, or to travel in the midweek or on Sundays during the peak summer season. This should in due course help to even out traffic flows and reduce the demand for new ferry capacity which might be underused for much of the year.

'Families with school children who are obliged to travel at weekends in the peak summer season will have an opportunity to avoid the burden of weekend surcharges by travelling on Sundays (or by day on Saturdays from Southampton). Those with fixed period holidays will be able to avoid weekend surcharges if they book and pay in advance.

'I consider that the new arrangements constitute a major further step towards implementation of the Monopolies Commission's report. I believe that further improvements may nonetheless be possible in later years and I have asked the director general to continue negotiations accordingly. However, I have indicated to the operators that I am willing to consider a reduction or even elimination of supervision in the light of experience gained in 1977.'

Tuesday, 30 November

Planning agreements

Mr Grylls asked how many British companies had made representations to the Department of Industry seeking to enter into negotiations in order to conclude a planning agreement.

'Although the government normally takes the initiative in setting exploratory discussions in train, we have received various informal inquiries,' said Mr Huckfield.

Metro-Cammell and front cover of 'Trade and Industry'

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked: 'How many times in the past two years have the products of Metro-Cammell been featured on the front cover of Trade and Industry*; and what was the reason in each case?'*

'Twice,' said Mr Huckfield, 'on 26 September 1975 and on 13 August 1976. Cover designs for *Trade and Industry* are chosen for their news value and relevance to the contents.'

Shipbuilding construction grants

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked whether the Secretary of State for Industry intends to set a time limit for the acceptance of applications for shipbuilding construction grants.

Mr Kaufman's reply was published in *Trade and Industry* of 3 December, page 636.

Credit agreement with USSR

Ivan Lawrence (Burton) asked: 'What loan facility has been granted to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for 1975, 1976 and 1977; how much of that facility has so far been taken up; and what has been the cost of that facility to date.

Mr Meacher said: 'In February 1975, a £950 million credit agreement was arranged with the USSR to apply to major capital goods contracts placed up to February 1980. The total value of contracts so far placed under this agreement is approximately £42 million. Two smaller facilities each for £10 million were arranged in 1975 relating to smaller contracts placed during 1976 and 1977. These have been little used to date. The cost of supporting business under these facilities varies according to the size and nature of the contracts and the terms and conditions applicable to those contracts.'

Current Cost Accounting

Joseph Dean (Leeds West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'What is the policy of Her Majesty's Government towards the exposure draft of a current cost accounting standard?'

Mr Dell's reply was published in *Trade and Industry* of 3 December, page 635.

Wednesday, 1 December

Tourist guides

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would ensure that tourist guides are represented on tourist boards, in view of their knowledge of the needs and wishes of visitors.

'No,' said Mr Meacher. 'Members of the statutory tourist boards are not appointed in a representative capacity, but I am satisfied that they have knowledge and experience which will prompt the boards to have constant regard to the requirements of the market.'

EEC anti-dumping measures

Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked: 'Is the Secretary of State for Trade satisfied that applications for action against dumping will be dealt with without any further delays than at present when responsibility for anti-dumping measures is taken over by the EEC Commission in July?'

Mr Meacher replied: 'Yes. The time within which complaints are now dealt with by the EEC is approximately the same as that which applies in the UK and arrangements are being made which should ensure that there is no lengthening of this time scale after 30 June 1977.'

Rates of interest under Industry Act

John Nott (St Ives) asked for a list of the different rates of interest appropriate to each kind of assistance under the Industry Act prevailing since February 1974, and the dates on which they came into force.

Mr Williams told him that the different forms and terms of assistance to industry under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 are explained in the Department of Industry publication 'Incentives for Industry in the Areas for Expansion' (pages 13 and 14). He listed the following changes in relevant interest rates:

	Interest rates (per cent)	
	Broadly commercial	Concessionary
1974		
From 2 January	13½	10
1975 21 April	11½	8½
3 September	12½	9½
29 September	13	10
27 October	13½	10½
1976 19 January	13	10
16 February	12½	9½
1 March	12	9
29 March	11½	8½
10 May	12	9
7 June	12½	9½
2 August	13	10
27 September	13½	10½
25 October	14	11
8 November	14½	11½
22 November	15	12

Mr Williams continued: 'Assistance under section 8 may be by means of a stipulated level of grant in relation to specified eligible costs, or, like section 7, may be tailored in certain cases to the needs of the company. Where assistance is in the form of loan or interest relief grant, the same principles as section 7 will normally apply.'

Share register survey

'How many organisations have refused to take part in the Department of Industry's share register survey; and what percentage does this represent of the total sample?' asked Michael Marshall (Arundel).

'All but two (representing less than 1 per cent) of the 285 companies approached cooperated in the survey,' said Mr Huckfield.

Mr Marshall also asked what was the cost of the share register survey and if legislation would be introduced following it.

Mr Huckfield said that the cost was about £115,000 and that the survey was for statistical purposes only: it was not intended as a basis for legislation.

Government-owned companies

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked for a list of companies wholly owned by the government, other than the nationalised corporations, their profits or loss for the latest financial year and the number of people they each employ.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information in respect of companies for which the Secretary of State for Industry is responsible.

Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd (1,129 employees). A pre-tax loss of £33,123 was recorded by the group in the year ended 30 September 1975.

Beagle Aircraft Ltd. The company is in liquidation.

Cable and Wireless Ltd (9,514 employees). For the year ended 31 March 1976 profit, after tax and extraordinary items, was £12,024,000.

Govan Shipbuilders Ltd (5,700 employees). A loss of £9.573 million was recorded in the year ending 26 December 1975.

Herbert Ltd (no direct employees). This company was formed on 10 December 1975 to purchase all the ordinary shares in Alfred Herbert Ltd.

Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd (64,082 employees). For the year ended 31 December 1975 profit after tax was £2 million.

SB Realisations Ltd (no direct employees). This

is a holding company with an important share in Short Bros and Harland. Loss attributable to SB Realisations for the year ending 31 August 1975 was £1.695 million. *Sunderland Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd* (6,991 employees). For the year ended 30 September 1975 a profit, after tax and extraordinary items, of £1.823 million was recorded.

Ownership of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd and Herbert Ltd is vested in the National Enterprise Board.

NEB guidelines

Joseph Dean (Leeds West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he had given any policy guidance to the National Enterprise Board on the conduct of their operations.

'Yes, Sir,' said Mr Varley. 'After full consultation with the National Enterprise Board I invited them, and they agreed, to work within the framework of the interim guidance on policy priorities, copies of which I have placed in the Library.'

Interim guidance on policy priorities for the National Enterprise Board (NEB)

The basic purposes of the board are those laid down in the Industry Act 1975, namely:

1 the development or assistance of the economy of the United Kingdom, or any part of it;
2 the promotion in any part of the United Kingdom of industrial efficiency and international competitiveness;
3 the provision, maintenance or safeguarding of productive employment in any part of the United Kingdom.

These purposes are to be pursued within the general framework of the government's industrial strategy, as this develops.

The board's contribution to industrial policy should be selective. The board should concentrate new initiatives where it is well qualified to intervene, where the maximum advantage can be obtained from the resources available, and where other policy instruments available to the government most clearly need to be reinforced. The financial resources at its disposal (subject to approval where appropriate in accordance with the guidelines) are substantial, but account must be taken of the requirements of companies already transferred to it, notably Rolls-Royce (1971) and British Leyland. The figures in the white paper on Public Expenditure to 1979-80 (Cmnd 6393) are, as there stated, arbitrary and will need to be kept under review.

It would be premature, in advance of further development of the industrial strategy, to identify new sectors for special attention at this stage. For the time being the NEB should concentrate on:

1 *Preparing for growth.* In preparation for an upturn in economic growth and for more sustained growth in the longer term, the NEB should give priority to action in anticipation of supply constraints, and to increase longer-term capacity in key sectors of manufacturing industry.
2 *Improving the balance of payments.* The NEB should give priority to companies and operations which seem likely to make a particular contribution to exports or to import-saving. This may include in appropriate cases participation in consortia to bid for an implement major export projects.
3 *Areas of high unemployment.* In identifying investment opportunities which afford choice of location the NEB should give particular weight to the creation of new jobs in areas of high unemployment and draw the government's attention to opportunities in the powers in the Industry Act to bring forward investment in these areas. The government will make full use of its powers to give selective financial assistance in appropriate cases to schemes that the NEB may sponsor. In current circumstances it is likely to be preferable to concentrate on the development of smaller and medium companies rather than attempt the lengthy task of seeking to establish major new industries.

More generally, the NEB should take up promising opportunities which present themselves for investment, should respond when practicable to suggestions put forward, for example, in NEDC discussions or by government departments, and should seek to develop potential within the sectors in which it already has shareholdings.

NEB and planning agreements

As the programme of planning agreements makes progress, the NEB may be asked from time to time, with the agreement of the company concerned, to take action in support of planning agreement proposals. But confidential information provided to the government by a company in planning agreement discussions cannot be made available to the NEB without the prior consent of the company. The NEB should not take shareholdings in such companies without consulting the Department of Industry and the sponsor departments concerned.

Thursday, 2 December

National Committee on Computer Networks

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked, 'How many people are employed by the National Committee on Computer Networks?'

Mr Williams said, 'Two people are at present employed in the secretariat, which has the following functions: identifying the main problem areas and making appropriate policy recommendations to the committee; servicing the needs of the committee; providing a co-ordinating service for the committee with government departments, public and private sectors of industry and other network users.

Investment intentions

Mr Grylls asked for an estimate of likely investment in manufacturing industry in 1977 as compared with 1975 and 1976, and what investment in manufacturing industry would be, in real terms, in 1976 as compared with 1975.

Mr Huckfield said, 'Results of the Department of Industry's August/September survey of investment intentions were published in *Trade and Industry* 8 October 1976. Results of the survey currently being conducted will be published by press notice on 5 January 1977.'

Whale etc products

Sir Bernard Braine (South East Essex) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would set out the reasons why he will not use his powers to ban the import of manufactured goods or produce derived from whales, dolphins or porpoises.

Mr Meacher said, 'Manufactured goods containing primary whale products cannot readily be distinguished by customs from similar goods not containing whale products and I would be loth to introduce a ban which could not be properly enforced. Moreover, although my powers relate to the import of all kinds of goods, UK policy on imports of whales and their products is determined by my right honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; without his initiative therefore I would not extend the coverage of the existing import restrictions unilaterally nor undertake to review the matter.'

Aircraft noise

Neville Sandelson (Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington) asked for a statement about action to reduce aircraft noise under the eastern approaches to Heathrow.

Mr Clinton Davis's reply is on page 711.

Noises from North Petherton

Tom King (Bridgwater) asked about discussions with the Bristol University team regarding the complaints of noises made from North Petherton, Somerset.

Mr Clinton Davis replied, 'An official of my department has had discussions with the Bristol University team, who, I understand, have not yet completed their investigations. There has been a tendency to link the reported noises with Concorde but it appears that, while some of the noises complained of coincide with Concorde flights, the recordings made are untypical of Concorde sonic boom. In addition, some complaints have been made on days when Concorde was not flying. I am advised that, in the university's opinion, the noises recorded at North Petherton are not such as to give rise to any damage to persons or structures. My department will continue to keep in touch with the university team.'

Trade with Republic of Ireland

Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked for details of the value of trade from the UK to the Republic of Ireland and from the Republic of Ireland to the UK in 1960, 1965, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975, respectively.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

£ million

	UK exports fob	UK imports cif
1960	119	127
1965	186	171
1970	381	341
1971	501	507
1972	469	445
1973	626	527
1974	820	807
1975	907	922

Trade with EEC

Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked 'What has been the total deficit in trade with the EEC and the rest of the world, respectively, since the United Kingdom became a member of the EEC?'

Mr Meacher gave the following information: 'Estimates of the United Kingdom's visible trade deficit by area, on a balance of payments basis, are only available up to the second quarter of this year. The UK visible trade deficit with the EEC and the rest of the world in 1973, 1974, 1975 and the first half of 1976, taken together, was £6,541 million and £5,730 million respectively.'

Potato prices

George Rodgers (Chorley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, had received from the Price Commission a further report on potato prices and distributors' margins.

Mr Hattersley said, 'A report covering September and the first fortnight in October has now been received and I am arranging for copies to be placed in the library. It points out that in this period supplies to the market were much lower than last year and retail prices were exceptionally high. It attributes the high prices to successive poor crops caused by the drought and pressure from increased costs of production and distribution. As a result, consumption has been greatly reduced. Nevertheless, distributors' cash and percentage margins both remained reasonably constant throughout the period: cash margins were a little higher than in August but percentage margins were little changed and returned to their August level by the first two weeks in October.'

Air cargo rates

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would make representations to the US authorities on behalf of British Airways in regard to their application for cheaper air cargo rates.

Mr Clinton Davis replied, 'My department has already expressed to the US Government our concern at their treatment of the cargo rates filed by British Airways and intend to take advantage of the visit by a US negotiating team next week to pursue the matter further. This is one of a number of recent arbitrary actions by the US Civil Aeronautics Board under the Bermuda Agreement, and underlines the need to negotiate a fresh agreement in its stead.'

European Convention on Patents

Mr Taylor asked how many countries have ratified the European Convention on Patents; and how many registrations these ratifications represent.

'This convention has so far been ratified only by the Federal Republic of Germany,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'It is understood that a number of other states are on the point of ratifying. The convention will enter into force three months after ratification by six states in which the total number of patent applications filed in 1970 amounted to at least 180,000. The relevant number of applications for the Federal Republic of Germany is 66,132.'

Imports of coal

Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) asked for a list of those countries exporting coal to the UK together with the tonnage and prices at the latest available date and the total cost of coal imports for the latest 12 months figures available.

Mr Meacher said that in the twelve months ending October 1976, coal imports were valued at £91 million and were consigned from the following countries:

	Metric tons 000's	Average value per metric ton £ cif
Australia	1,839	21.46
USA	879	37.07
Federal Republic of Germany	138	42.55
Netherlands	126	24.18
Poland	106	28.41
Belgium (and Luxembourg)	72	30.28
North Vietnam	41	32.71
Other countries	156	21.40

Note:
Average values are not true prices. The figures are affected by differences in the kinds of coal imported.

Food prices

Donald Stewart (Western Isles) asked for a list of commodities in the food index, giving the current prices and the prices at February 1974.

Mr Maclennan replied, 'Retail prices of about 80 important food items calculated from information gathered by the Department of Employment for the General Index of Retail Prices are published monthly in the *Department of Employment Gazette*. The prices for 19 February 1974 and 12 October 1976 can be found in Issue No. 4 of Volume LXXXII and No. 11 of LXXXIV.

'For the following categories of food in the Food Index an average price is not published. This is because the diversity of items within each of the categories makes the notion of an average meaningless. These are:

Breakfast cereals, etc
Biscuits
Cakes
Milk, canned, dried, etc
Proprietary drinks
Soft drinks
Jams
Vegetables, canned, dried and frozen
Fruit, canned and dried
Sweets and chocolates
Ice-cream
Sauces, pickles, etc
Pet foods

Consumer Credit Act

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection plans to reduce the enforcement burden placed upon local trading standards departments by the Consumer Credit Act 1974, or to re-imburse these departments for their work from the licence fees received under this Act.

Mr Fraser said, 'As implementation proceeds, I am examining all aspects to reduce the enforcement burden as far as possible consistent with providing adequate protection to the consumer. There is no power to reimburse from licence fees the enforcement costs of local Trading Standards Departments.'

'Will the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection alter the timetable for the introduction of the Consumer Credit Act 1974?' asked Mr Wainwright.

Mr Fraser said, 'I am keeping implementation of the act under constant review, bearing in mind the necessity to provide adequate protection for consumers; to reduce the burden on local authorities; to avoid an excessive burden on traders at any one time and to have adequate consultation with interested parties on all relevant matters. I hope to make a statement shortly about the next stage of licencing together with provisions relating to extortionate credit bargains and disclosures by credit reference agencies of files kept by them on consumers.'

Consumer protection enforcement officer

Giles Shaw (Pudsey) asked: 'What is the cost to public funds of consumer protection enforcement officers; why is it necessary for them to have any specific qualifications and how many are employed by the DPCP?'

Mr Maclennan answered that the estimated cost of local authorities' consumer protection enforcement work in England and Wales in 1976/77 would be approximately £18 million.

He continued: 'The basic enforcement work of consumer protection officers, or Trading Standards Officers as they are more commonly called, is in the field of weights and measures and no inspector may be appointed until he or she has passed my department's qualifying examination. Following the report of a working party set up by the Local Government Training Board, trainees are now undergoing instruction for the Diploma in Trading Standards examination which covers the whole field of consumer protection enforcement.'

No consumer protection enforcement officers are employed by the DPCP, he said.

Questions about the salary scale and functions and duties of consumer protection enforcement officers and about the total number of prosecutions as a result of their work were asked by Mr Shaw.

Mr Maclennan answered that salary scales were matters for employing local authorities. 'Appointments to the basic grade of inspector in most authorities are to grade AP4/5,' he said. 'Salary scales are those settled by the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services.'

The functions and duties of these officers was also a matter for decision by individual authorities. With few exceptions, eg, Diseases of Animals, Petroleum and Explosives Acts, relevant provisions of the following legislation are enforced by all county consumer protection or trading standards departments; the pattern varies widely in London so far as the functions under B and C are concerned:

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

A Weights and Measures Act 1963 Trade Descriptions Acts 1968, 1972 Fabrics (Misdescription) Act 1913 Consumer Protection Acts, 1961, 1971 Fair Trading Act 1973 Hallmarking Act 1973 Consumer Credit Act 1974 Prices Acts 1974, 1975	Functions allocated to 'local weights and measures authorities'
B Food and Drugs Act 1955	Composition and labelling provisions allocated to 'food and drugs authorities'
C Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 Agriculture Act 1970 Explosives Act 1875 Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928 Celluloid and Cinematograph Film Act 1922 Road Traffic Act 1950 Diseases of Animals Act 1950	

'Local authorities also will have to enforce provisions of certain EEC regulations or of directives implemented under the European Communities Act 1972,' said Mr Maclennan.

Comparable information about prosecutions is not collected on a national basis, but it was understood that in England and Wales in the year ended 31 March 1976 local weights and measures authorities in the shire and metropolitan counties took 6,262 prosecutions, most of which were successful.

Friday, 3 December

Trade with EEC

Teddy Taylor asked for figures showing the trade balance or deficit, respectively, with the EEC countries in manufactured goods, food, commodities including oil, and other items, respectively, in the most recent annual period for which figures are available; and comparable figures for each of the previous five years.

Mr Meacher gave the following information

'CRUDE'(a) BALANCE OF TRADE WITH EEC SELECTED COMMODITY GROUPS

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million

	Food	Basic materials and oil	Manufactured goods	Other
1971	−503	−67	+320	−5
1972	−498	−85	+27	−24
1973	−699	−116	−275	−83
1974	−1,220	−273	−637	−66
1975	−1,474	−328	−544	−39
1976 (Jan-Oct at an annual rate)	−1,449	−243	−455	−83

(a) The crude trade balance is the difference between exports fob and imports cif.

UK trade

Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked, 'What has been the total deficit on visible trade only, and on the current account, which the United Kingdom has incurred since February 1974?'

Mr Meacher replied: 'For the period February 1974 up to and including October 1976 the cumulative visible trade deficit was £11,130 million seasonally adjusted; the corresponding figure for the current account was £6,320 million.'

Shirts from India

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked: 'How many shirts were imported from India during the last 12 months and during the last six months; and how many of these shirts were licensed, respectively?'

Mr Dell replied: 'During the 12 months and six months ending October 1976 imports of shirts from India totalled 8.3 million and 5.5 million, respectively. All shirts from India require an import licence in order to enter the United Kingdom. In the case of handloom shirts, accompanied by the appropriate certificate, licences are freely issued; licences for mill-made shirts are issued against the quota.'

'What action is being taken to ensure that shirts imported from India outside quota restraints should not be subject to quota restraints?' asked Mr Winterton.

'Following the tests carried out earlier this year to check the authenticity of goods bearing handloom certificates which are imported outside the quota, I have arranged for further sample testing by the Shirley Institute,' said Mr Dell. 'In addition, further consultations between the EEC and the Indian authorities about arrangements for 1977, which would involve quantitative assurances, took place in Geneva on 2 December and will be followed up before the end of the year.'

Industrial research associations

Donald Stewart (Western Isles) asked what government grants are being paid currently to industrial research associations in England and Scotland, respectively.

Mr Huckfield said: 'My department currently makes no grants to industrial research associations. This form of support has been replaced by specific contracts.

'There are no industrial research associations located in Scotland although technical services are provided there by research associations based in England and Northern Ireland. My department's Research Requirements Boards' expenditure at research associations in England and Northern Ireland is expected to be £7.4 million in 1976/77.'

Albright and Wilson

Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would take steps to ensure that Albright and Wilson continue in production in Kirkby.

Mr Williams replied: 'I have been kept informed by Albright and Wilson of their plans to rationalise production, involving the closure of the plant at Kirkby but the matter is ultimately for the company's commercial judgement and I have no powers to intervene. I have confirmed that the company are attempting to find jobs for their employees in other plants in the group in the Merseyside and Birmingham areas. If the company wish to apply for Temporary Employment Subsidy this would be available subject to the usual conditions.'

Government sales

Ministry of Defence

Sale by auction

21 December 1976 – Vehicles and Miscellaneous Stores

Location
The Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle

Auctioneers
Harrison and Hetherington Ltd (Dept L), Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2RS (tel. 0228 26292)

The stores which are lying in various depots in the Carlisle area include 118 vehicles of various makes and types, machine and hand tools, electrical equipment, various instruments, etc. Many items of service clothing, boots and shoes, and web equipment. Furniture, carpets and a large collection of other interesting items.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneer from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Publications

Smaller businesses, home and abroad

The Smaller Business in Britain and Germany, by Graham Bannock. (151 pages. Wilton House Publications. 1976. £15.00. ISBN 0 904 655 18 0.) It is now nearly five years since the *Committee of Inquiry on Small Firms* (*Bolton Committee. Cmnd 4811. HMSO. 1971*) published its deliberations. In essence the committee expected that the decline of small firms would level off and result in 'a smaller but viable small firm sector.' However, it could be inferred from the evidence presented in this newly published comparative study that the decline is continuing, both in Britain and elsewhere. In order to demonstrate his case the author, who was the research director of the Bolton Committee, explains the current situation regarding small firms in West Germany by presenting the findings of a survey, sponsored by the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of the Industrial Society, of both smaller businesses and public policy towards them. The purpose of the resulting study is to advance the understanding of the role of the small business sector in the contemporary economy and to identify and evaluate current trends while at the same time suggesting new policies applicable to the situation in the United Kingdom.

The volume begins with a brief introduction, followed by a summary note on the main conclusions and recommendations. In chapter one, the author surveys the more important developments in the small business area in Britain since Bolton: he reviews the rejected recommendations and reports on the progress made on some of the more important ones which were accepted. Chapter two examines recent economic developments in the small firm sector and includes a note on recent trends in other countries. The industrial context within which small firms operate is discussed in chapter three: specifically, the structure of industry in Britain and West Germany is compared and contrasted, both in the broad sense and also in the narrower field of industrial concentration and productivity. A far more detailed comparative study of two industries – brewing and the bakery industry – is contained in the appendices.

Chapter four is devoted to an analysis and assessment of public policy towards small firms in West Germany. This is followed and complemented by chapter five which is an explanation of the differences between the relative importance of small firms in Britain and Germany. Chapter six focuses on the role of small businesses in the advanced economy: in particular this chapter examines the process of concentration and endeavours to isolate its causes and determine its direction. The relevant passages of the Bolton report are cited and commented upon in some detail and the role of the state in the concentration process is discussed against the background of a rapidly changing international economic situation. The final chapter itemises the author's proposals for alternative policies under the following headings: company law; taxation; competition policy; macro-economic policy; finance; education and training, and information and research.

As mentioned in the context of chapter three, the two appendices comprise extended and detailed case studies of the brewing industry and the bread and baking industry respectively. These studies are constructed on the basis of comparative data drawn from the particular industries concerned in Britain and Germany and they reveal a marked contrast in the situation current in the two countries.

The volume concludes with a select bibliography, which supplements the many sources and references quoted in the main text. By reason of its closely argued and extensively documented proposals this volume is a timely contribution to the literature on the small business sector: it will consequently be of considerable interest to those in commerce, industry and government who are in any way concerned with the contemporary industrial situation.

Solar energy: the general principles

Solar Energy; an annotated bibliography. Property Services Agency Library Services. (115 pages. Available from Property Services Agency Library Service, Whitgift Centre, Croydon CR9 3LY. 1976. £1.50. ISBN 0 903197 60 X.) It is now accepted as almost a truism that industrial societies depend for their survival on the continued development of alternative energy sources and energy technology. The explicit nature of this fact has recently been demonstrated by the oil crisis and the debate concerning the economic and social costs of nuclear power. One of the consequences of the current situation has been the increasing awareness of the need for more information on all aspects of energy innovation. In particular, attention is now focused on alternatives to conventional energy supplies and this newly published bibliography on solar power, one of the possible alternatives, is a timely contribution to this discussion.

Compiled by Nola Pressey of the PSA Library, it is the latest in a series, the first two of which, *District Heating* and *Total Energy*, were reviewed in *Trade and Industry*, 18 April 1975. Although orientated towards the PSA's interests in the building and construction aspects of the subject, this volume does include a large number of items which encompass both the general principles and the broader applications of the solar energy area. The entries are arranged alphabetically by the author under some 26 broad headings, the first five of which comprise bibliographies, conference papers, historical studies, directories and periodicals. The next two sections are devoted to general works and research respectively, and each of these is further divided into selected country groupings. Other headings include solar power, solar collectors – both flat plate and window systems – solar cells, solar engines and solar architecture. Extensive coverage is given to references on solar buildings, which is subdivided into sections on offices, schools, general solar building matters, and also includes literature citations arising from the purpose built solar heated school at Wallasey. Further headings which have geographical and subject divisions include the solar house, heating systems and water heating. The main text closes with references to air conditioning and refrigeration, the latter being considered in the context of solar energy. Two indexes, a subject and an author index, conclude the volume.

Most of the references are drawn from English language publications, although a small number are in French. A wide variety of sources have been utilised; including monographs, periodicals, conference papers and proceedings, seminars, theses and reports. The sponsoring organisations of these documents include governments, academic and research institutions, learned societies and commercial publishers, and they originate from the United Kingdom, the United States and other English speaking centres as well as the previously mentioned small collection from France. The annotations to the entries provide both abstracts and, where appropriate, the publishing context. With over 650 citations this bibliography incorporates a wide range of the relevant literature thus bringing the user into contact with an up-to-date and representative selection of items.

Official statistics: comprehensive guide

Guide to Official Statistics No. 1. 1976. Central Statistical Office. (391 pages. Available from HMSO. 1976. £7.50: £8.20 by post. ISBN 0 11 630132 5.) This guide, the most comprehensive work of its kind attempted, has been compiled by the Central Statistical Office to provide a key to statistics available from virtually all official sources and the more important non-official publications. Its appearance follows a recommendation by the House of Commons estimates committee and is the result of close collaboration by the CSO with other government departments over a period of years. The magnitude of this project can be gauged from the fact that over 800 subject areas, embracing most aspects of national life and activity, are covered and that 2,500 sources are identified.

It should be stressed that the guide does not attempt to list every commodity, service, occupation, disease etc for which statistics exist. To do so would involve the compilation of several volumes and go beyond the constraints of space and time imposed on this particular exercise. The object, however, of this project is to give the user a fair indication of the likelihood of a particular subject being included in a given source.

The publication opens with an extended note on the use of the main text and the accompanying indexes. This is followed by a full contents list in which is incorporated an outline of the classification around which the text is constructed. The following broad headings give some idea of the subject areas covered: general sources of statistics; climate and environment; population and vital statistics; social statistics; labour; agriculture; production industries; transport; distribution and other services; public services; prices; the economy; general and public finance; financial and business institutions; and overseas transactions.

The core of the volume consists of the subject list and this is arranged in a classified sequence. Each section and sub-section normally identifies a number of sources within the narrative structure together with the relevant statistics contained in them. This section of the guide includes broad content descriptions of all significant and relevant publications, regular and ad hoc, in which data can be located.

The subject list is followed and complemented by the alphabetical key word index, which consists of some 3,000 keywords taken from the main text and arranged in relative index form. Most of the publications cited in the central subject list are listed in the bibliography which follows the keyword index. The bibliography provides information on the publisher, price, date, and, in the case of serials, frequency, of most of the sources previously mentioned. For purposes of research and further information the concluding item is a list of government departments, their addresses and the main contact points. Major developments up to June 1976 have been included and it is planned to update continuously the information file and to publish subsequent editions at approximately annual intervals: the first of these is expected in spring 1978. The guide makes a significant contribution to the government's aim of providing easier access to the vast body of information it creates in the course of its many and varied activities.

Future of European motor industry

The West European Motor Industry: Where now? EIU Special Report No. 34: October 1976. (82 pages. Available from the Ecomomist Intelligence Unit, Spencer House, 27 St James's Place, London W1A 1NT. 1976. £40.00.) Until the 1970 oil crisis the west European automotive industry had enjoyed unparalleled, and virtually unhindered, growth. The oil price rise together with the subsequent embargo initiated a recession unknown since World War Two. Although the worst now seems to be over, the changes induced by the crisis have had far reaching and fundamental effects on both the size and the structure of the industry.

This report attempts to isolate and evaluate the more important changes which have occurred while at the same time seeking to identify and predict the likely consequences for the European automotive sector up to 1980. Following the introduction, in which the context of the report is outlined, part one, entitled the structure and growth of the west European automotive industry, examines both the recent history and the current status of the industry. It also explores market development for the period 1966-75. In particular the first section of part one is a country by country analysis of the chief manufacturers, the countries covered being West Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Italy.

The second section is devoted to a study of western Europe's small independent manufacturers in which the accelerating process of concentration is noted. The final section of part one looks at trends in the west European vehicle market and it includes observations on the increasing susceptibility to cyclical fluctuation of this now mature market.

Part two of the report deals with the future of the European automotive industry and opens with a discussion on the place of the motor industry in the economy. It then proceeds to study the possible trends in production and sales up to 1980. This section, which is divided into passenger cars and commercial vehicles, contains detailed data on both actual and forecast trends. The report then assesses the pattern of trade with countries outside Europe.

Then follows an extensive examination of industry integration which includes a general overview of the subject and a country analysis. The prospects for rationalisation in the small commercial vehicle producer sector are also considered in this context. A further country by country assessment of the prospects for the individual manufacturer is then presented. This forecast review begins with an inquiry into the prospects for the West German domestic sector of companies, followed by those of France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Sweden. The operations of United States multinational companies are also noted here and this section concludes with brief comments on the outlook for Europe's small specialist manufacturers. The final section of the report is given over to an indication of the overall prospects for the west European motor industry.

This EIU special report contains much new information about the progress and prospects of this industry.

International trade: a practical guide

Elements of Overseas Trade, by Geoffrey Whitehead. (406 pages. Croner Publications Ltd, 46-50 Coombe Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4QL. 1976. £8.00. ISBN 0 900319 20 8.) Although essentially a textbook for students of international trade and related disciplines this new work provides a thorough basis for anyone engaged in the field. Specifically, the volume deals with the four main aspects of overseas trade: the legal framework within which overseas trade activities are performed; the documentation and transport problems involved; the insurance cover required and the financial problems concerned with ultimate payment. The text is organised into more than 30 sections, each of which gives a full treatment of its particular topic as well as containing many reproductions of working documents, data citations together with literature references and examination questions. An extensive index provides a key to the concise and well ordered text.

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European community news

UK concern with economic problems shared in EEC – Callaghan

Most of Britain's EEC partners share, in varying degree, this country's concern with problems of inflation, employment and balance of payments. And, describing the outcome of the European council meeting in The Hague on 29 to 30 November, Prime Minister James Callaghan explained to the House of Commons that during a full discussion on economic and monetary matters the nine heads of government had looked at the present state and prospects of the community in relation to the rest of the world.

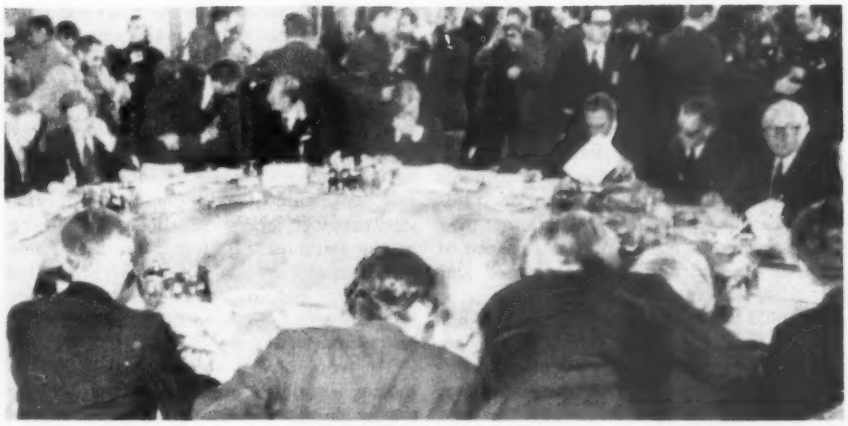
'There was common interest,' he said, 'in trying to ensure that the growth of activity, both in the community and in the rest of the world, should not slow down and in finding constructive ways of tackling our common problems in a community framework.

'A number of colleagues joined me in stressing that, whilst those countries which, like the United Kingdom, are still faced with problems of inflation, unemployment, balance of payments and inadequate investment in productive industry must take all possible steps to help themselves, there are also helpful steps which others in the community could take.'

In particular, Mr Callaghan went on, as the commission had brought out in its report which was approved by the council, the stronger economies had an important part to play. There was some measure of reassurance about the prospects of continuing recovery, but all member states were concerned about the serious potential effects of any further increase in oil prices.

The second major subject of discussion by the heads of government was the north-south dialogue and the range of problems relating to international economic co-operation. They examined the questions currently under discussion in various international bodies and reaffirmed the importance they attached to making a contribution to the economic development of the developing countries, while keeping in mind the problems posed by difficulties in the community's own economy.

At the same time 'we were able to complete our work on the Tindemans report', Mr Callaghan said, and 'there was a warm expression of the council's thanks to the Belgian Prime Minister for undertaking this task'. The heads of government endorsed the general lines on which ministers for foreign affairs had been working and emphasised the importance to be given in the next phase of the community's development to combating inflation and unemployment, to drawing up common policies for energy and for research, and to developing a genuine regional and social policy in the community. The European council would have a yearly look at the progress achieved in various fields.



Opening session of the European council meeting in The Hague on 29 November (AP Wirephoto).

In their discussion on trade relations between the community and Japan, the heads of government drew attention to the problem created by the deterioration in the trade situation and the difficulties which had arisen in certain industrial sectors. The council agreed, Mr Callaghan said, that these relations should be developed to the advantage of both the community and Japan.

Urgent consideration would be given to various trade problems by the community institutions and the council called for substantial progress to be made before its next meeting. 'We expressed satisfaction,' he said, 'at the indications we have had of Japanese willingness to co-operate with the community.'

The council also held an exchange of views on agricultural problems in the community including the question of monetary compensatory amounts.

'While some member governments sought to focus attention particularly on matters arising from changes in currency relationships, I emphasised that these must be seen as only one part of a wider problem – the need to improve the agricultural policy and particularly to eliminate costly surpluses.'

The nominations of each of the member governments to the new commission were approved by the council, including that of Roy Jenkins as president and of Christopher Tugendhat as the second British commissioner (see opposite).

The council also noted, Mr Callaghan said, that the commission would be reviewing its organisation and procedures and looked forward to hearing in due course an account of the conclusions reached.

Finally, Mr Callaghan pointed out that the meeting 'once more made clear that many of the problems which we in this country face are shared by others in the community. It also showed that the institutions of the community are not sufficiently developed to provide common solutions to these problems, which are intensified by the growing divergence between the economies of various member states. Nevertheless, the exchange of views which we held during the council meeting will be helpful in our efforts to resolve them.'

Ministers adopt new resolution for action in education

Consideration of measures to improve the preparation of young people for working life and to facilitate the transition from education to work was the main item on the agenda of EEC education ministers at their meeting in Brussels on 29 November.

Before them was the report submitted by the community's education committee in accordance with paragraph 22 of the resolution adopted on 9 February this year for an action programme in the field of education.

The resolution provides a framework for the development of educational co-operation in the community. It set out the terms of an action programme which was to be developed under the oversight of an education committee composed of representatives of the nine member states and the commission, giving first priority to the study of measures to assist the transition from education to work (paragraph 22).

After discussing the committee's report,

ministers adopted a new resolution in which they agreed that in developing their national policies governments should take into account the conclusions set out in the report about facilitating the transition from school to working life. They agreed also to compare periodically in the education committee.

At community level, the resolution calls for pilot projects and studies to assist in the evaluation and development of national policies, as well as visits to study vocational training and guidance, and teacher training. It also recommends that community arrangements should be extended to provide regular information on trends and developments in vocational guidance and preparation for working life.

The progress of the education committee's work on all the topics in the 9 February resolution was also discussed and ministers gave guidance to the committee as to the direction and priorities of its work.

The UK was represented at the meeting by Secretary of State for Education and Science Shirley Williams. She was accompanied by Barry Jones, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, and the meeting was chaired by the Dutch Minister of Education, Dr J. A. van Kemenade.

Positive UK attitude on EEC's environmental programme

Changes to two EEC draft regulations for water pollution protection were being sought by the UK at the environmental council yesterday (9 December). But Denis Howell, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment explained that Britain fully supported the aims of the second environment action programme where they were soundly based and appropriate for action at community level.

The UK view was that the effects of geography could not be harmonised and that different circumstances needed to be tackled in different ways. Individual member states were faced with different environmental problems in different seas, different climates, and different rivers. The UK did not believe that everyone should take the same measures, regardless of need, simply to ensure that industry everywhere had to carry the same costs.

The two draft regulations that concern the UK are one on the quality of water for human consumption and another on emission control of titanium dioxide and paper pulp in water. They are part of the EEC commission's five-year environmental programme due to come into force in the nine member countries at the beginning of next year.

EIB loans for BSC

Two new loans totalling the equivalent of £14.7 million (22.2 million units of account) have been granted to the British Steel Corporation for 10 years at an interest rate of 9 per cent by the European Investment Bank, the EEC's long-term finance institution.

The major share, £12.6 million, goes to the BSC's Port Talbot works in South Wales to contribute towards the £32 million cost of a new coal handling and blending system.

Port Talbot is situated in a development area which suffers from an unemployment rate higher than the national average, together with structural problems arising from the closure of coal mines, traditional sources of employment in the area.

This new project is related to the programme of modernisation and replacement to maintain the capacity of existing facilities at the works, which is extremely important for the economy of South Wales. Part of this programme is a new sinter plant which the bank helped to finance in 1974 with a loan of £8 million.

The second loan, £2.1 million, is for construction of facilities to refurbish continuous casting moulds at the corporation's Distington works, near Workington (Cumbria) in north-west England.

Costing around £5.9 million, these new facilities will provide 225 new jobs in an area which has long known severe unemployment due notably to a decline of coal and iron ore mining.

Investment in the community in 1975

The value of fixed investment in the EEC countries rose by only 6 per cent in 1975 compared with a gain of 13 per cent a year earlier and, if price inflation is taken into account there was a decline in real terms for the second year running. These findings have been published in the fourth of a series of annual publications by the European Investment Bank entitled 'Investment in the Community in 1975 and its Financing'. The study goes on to examine the financial background in attempting to discover reasons for this decline.

The study is published in German, English, French and Italian and copies are available, free of charge, on request to: The European Investment Bank, 2 Place de Metz – Boite postale 2005, Luxembourg.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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New faces at commission from January

Of the 13 EEC commissioners now in Brussels, six will remain when the new commission takes office at the start of 1977.

Among the newcomers will be the two British nominees Roy Jenkins, who becomes president, and Christopher Tugendhat, currently member of parliament for the City of London and Westminster.

Also new to the commission will be the Italian nominees Antonio Giolitti and Lorenzo Natali, Viscount Etienne Davignon of Belgium, Richard Burke of the Republic of Ireland and Henk Vredeling of the Netherlands.

Current commission president François-Xavier Ortoli and Claude Cheysson, both from France, will remain as commissioners, as will Wilhelm Haferkamp and Guido Brunner of West Germany, Finn Olav Gundelach of Denmark and Raymond Vouel of Luxembourg.

Some of the 13 commissioners in office from the new year:

(Photos Cheysson, Ortoli, Brunner, Haferkamp, Gundelach, Vouel: Commission of the European Communities. Photo Vredeling: Royal Netherlands Embassy.)

Claude Cheysson (France)

Francois-Xavier Ortoli (France)

Guido Brunner (West Germany)

Wilhelm Haferkamp (W.Germany)

Lorenzo Natali (Italy)

Finn Olav Gundelach (Denmark)

Raymond Vouel (Luxembourg)

Henk Vredeling (Netherlands)

European community new legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 2829/76 amending regulation (EEC) 816/70 laying down additional provisions for the common organisation of the market in wine, and regulation (EEC) 1160/76 amending that regulation, as well as regulation (EEC) 1164/76 amending regulation (EEC) 865/68 on the common organisation of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables, and regulation (EEC) 950/68 on the common customs tariff (*Official Journal* L326, 25 November 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 2808/76 amending regulation (EEC) 2054/76 on the sale for export to third countries of skimmed-milk powder held by intervention agencies and intended for use as feed (*Official Journal* L323, 22 November 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2849/76 amending the annex to regulation (EEC) 1054/68 determining the list of agencies certifying the admissibility to certain tariff headings of certain milk products from third countries so far as it concerns the section on Switzerland relating to Tilsit cheese (*Official Journal* L327, 26 November 1976).

Cereals and rice. Regulation (EEC) 2824/76 amending for the tenth time regulation (EEC) 2042/75 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice (*Official Journal* L325, 24 November 1976).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 2836/76 supplementing regulation (EEC) 442/70 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of offsetting storage costs for sugar (*Official Journal* L326, 25 November 1976).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 2841/76 amending regulation (EEC) 1466/76 extending the arrangements laid down in regulation (EEC) 3328/75 for imports of beef and veal originating in certain African, Caribbean and Pacific states. In article 3 of regulation (EEC) 1466/76 the date '31 December 1976' shall be replaced by '31 December 1977' (*Official Journal* L327, 26 November 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2873/76 derogating from regulation (EEC) 223/76 setting up a system linking imports of beef and veal products effected by way of protective measures with the sale of preserved beef held by intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L329, 27 November 1976).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 2843/76 laying down special measures in particular for the determination of the offers of olive oil on the world market (*Official Journal* L327, 26 November 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2844/76 laying down special measures in particular for the determination of the offers of olive oil on the Greek market (*Official Journal* L327, 26 November 1976).

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L326, 25 November 1976, contains the text of decision 76/883/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres (discontinuous or waste) falling within subheading 56.07 A of the common customs tariff, originating in Thailand and in free circulation in the other member states.

Lomé convention

Accession of Surinam, the Seychelles and the Comoro State. Consequent on their accession to the ACP/EEC convention of Lomé any mention of the 'ACP States' in the acts of the community institutions also applies to the Republic of Surinam with effect from 16 July 1976; to the Republic of Seychelles with effect from 27 August 1976 and to the Comoro State with effect from 13 September 1976.

In practical trade terms the accession of these states to the Lomé convention is of little significance, since they were all formerly associated with the community under part IV of the treaty of Rome. The arrangements for trade with the part IV dependencies are the same as those for trade with the ACP states.

Further information: Department of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Division 1, 1-19 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5106.

Finance for oil technology

The *Official Journal of the European Communities*, C266 of 12 November 1976, contains a commission communication inviting applications for interest-free loans to promote new technology for the exploration, production, transport and storage of hydrocarbons. The loans are to be made for selected projects under the scheme established by the adoption of EEC regulations 3056/73, on the support of community projects in the hydrocarbon sector, the main objective of which is to increase the security of oil supplies to EEC member states.

A fact sheet containing details of the scheme, together with the text of regulation 3056/73, may be obtained on application to the Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ. Copies of *Official Journal* C266 may be obtained from HMSO, price 35p plus postage.

It is also recommended that firms who consider that they have a project which could qualify for support under this scheme should contact either the Offshore Supplies Office, Department of Energy, Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6AS (tel. 041-221 8777 ext. 408 – Mr T. G. Crouch) or the Community and International Policy Division, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ (tel. 01-211 3000 or 01-211 3809 – Mr R. N. Waters).

Applications for loans should reach the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Communities, 6 Rond-Point Schuman, 1049 Brussels, Belgium, by 28 February 1977.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

ACP-EEC meeting in Lomé

Current trade and political problems arising under the Lomé convention and participation in the convention activities by representatives of the economic and social sectors were among the main items for debate by the joint committee of the consultative assembly of the Lomé convention at their meeting on 1 to 4 December.

The trade and political problems were outlined in a draft report by Lord Reay, Conservative member of the European parliament. 'Significant progress had been made,' he said, 'although it is too early to form definitive views'. The smooth operation of the Stabex system (to stabilise export prices for poorer countries' exports), progress on financial and technical co-operation, and the orderly application of trade provisions 'have apparently gone well'. But the problem of consultation was 'perhaps the major difference of principle.'

Summaries of proceedings before the European court

A number of cases appearing before the European court of justice have an interest in the UK.

Summaries of the judgements given are prepared by the court and lists of those of interest in this country are published periodically in *Trade and Industry*.

Linked Cases 56 to 60/74: Kampffmeyer and other v European Economic Community
Five German cereal meal producers have brought an action against the EEC for damages pursuant to article 215(2) of the EEC treaty. The latter article provides in the case of non-contractual liability that the community will make good any damage caused by its institutions in the performance of their duty.

Case 51/75: EMI v CBS United Kingdom
Case 86/75: EMI v CBS Grammofon A/G Vanlose
Case 96/75: EMI v CBS Schallplatten GmbH, Frankfurt am Main
The proceedings arose as a result of sales within the community through European subsidiaries of CBS, of products manufactured in America, which bear the trade mark 'Columbia.' The mark is used by both EMI and CBS, due to a previous link between them. EMI disputed CBS's right to produce, import and sell records bearing the mark 'Columbia' within the community.

Case 54/75: De Dapper v European Parliament
This case involves an action for annulment of elections for the setting up of a staff committee and asks whether the court has jurisdiction in a case of this nature.

Case 113/75: Frecassetti v Italian State Finance Administration
This case involves an interpretation by the court of the term 'day of importation' for the purpose of determining the levy applicable to cereals.

Case 118/75: Watson
A decision by the court on the community rules concerning freedom of movement for workers and their effect on the internal legislation of member states.

Case 119/75: Terrapin v Terranova
The court was asked to rule whether it was compatible with the 'free movement of goods' provisions of the EEC treaty, to prevent the import of an undertaking's goods bearing a mark which may be confused with a commercial name or trade mark under protection in the importing state.

Case 120/75: Riemer v Hauptzollamt, Lubeck West
The point of contention is under which heading of the common customs tariff to classify cranberries, frozen for a short time, for the sole purpose of transportation.

Case 125/75: Milch-Fett- und Eier-Koutor Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas
This case concerns the interpretation of the community regulations on detailed rules for the application of refunds for the export of butter.

Case 127/75: Bobie v Hauptzollamt Aachen-Nord
The court was asked to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of article 95 relating to a system of taxation operated by the Federal Republic of Germany on imported beer. The plaintiff claims that the FRG maintains a different tax system for domestic production of the commodity and has asked if this is compatible with article 95 of the EEC treaty.

Case 130/75: V. Prais v Council
The case concerns the recruitment of lawyer-linguists for the council, brought before the court to consider the question of the fundamental rights of the individual. Mrs V. Prais applied to be considered for a post as a lawyer-linguist. She was informed that it would be necessary to sit an examination on a certain day, a day which she could not attend for religious reasons. The council refused to allow her to sit the exam on another day which led to the action.

Linked cases 3, 4 and 6/76: Officer van Justitie v Kramer and others
Criminal proceedings were brought before the Netherlands courts against local fishermen for violation of Dutch regulations limiting catches of sole and plaice. The action before the court concerns the compatibility of the regulations adopting the provisions of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention with community law, and, whether the institutions alone have the power to conclude international agreements in this matter.

Case 7/76: Industria Romana Carni and Affini v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato
The plaintiff in this case contested the application of a customs duty applied to imported consignments of frozen meat and offals of bovine animals. The court was asked to rule on the validity of the regulations on which the customs authorities based their calculations, and, whether retroactive application of these regulations is compatible with community law.

Case 10/76: Commission v Italian Republic
An action brought under article 169 for the failure on the part of the Italians to implement their obligations under two directives providing for the freedom to provide services in respect of public works contracts, and the co-ordination of procedures to award such contracts.

Case 12/76: Industria Tessili Italiana, Como v Dunlop AG
This is one of two judgements which constitute the first application of the convention of 27 December 1968 on jurisdiction and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters. The aim of the convention is to remove obstacles to legal relations within the community and it therefore contains rules enabling the jurisdiction of the courts of the member states in these matters to be determined and facilitates the recognition and execution of judgements of such courts. The plaintiff in the case supplied what the defendant considered to be defective goods and therefore brought an action for rescission of contract before a German court. The plaintiff claimed that the terms of the contract contained a clause which stated that jurisdiction in any dispute belonged to the Italian courts. The German firm Dunlop AG claimed that its letter of order contained a similar clause giving jurisdiction to the German courts. Dunlop AG referred to the judgements convention, article 5(1), which provides, in matters relating to a contract, that a person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued in the courts for 'the place of performance of the obligation' to determine which court had jurisdiction. The action concerned the interpretation of that provision. Another question considered in these proceedings was whether the new member states who are not yet parties to the convention are entitled to participate in the procedure for its interpretation. The reply given to this question was in the affirmative and the principle was laid down that the new member states have an interest in expressing their views when the court is called upon to interpret a convention to which they are required to become parties.

Case 14/76: Etablissements De Bloos v Société Bouyer
This is the second of the cases mentioned in the previous summary. The facts are similar, once more leading to the court being asked to interpret the concept of the term 'obligation' in article 5 of the convention, as a result of infringement of an exclusive sales concession between Belgian and French concerns.

Case 17/76: Mrs Brack (widow of R. F. Brack) v Insurance Commissioner
This case concerns the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families within the community. It was brought before the court of justice by a British authority having jurisdiction in these matters and in fact is the first case to be referred to the court on the subject of British social security legislation.

R. F. Brack went to France in 1974 to work in a self-employed capacity where he fell seriously ill and had to receive immediate medical treatment. One month later he returned home to England where his national insurance authority rejected his claims for cash sickness benefit for the time he was abroad. The benefit was refused on the basis of a national rule enshrining the principle that a person shall be disqualified from receiving benefit during any period that a person is absent from Great Britain. The case was pursued by Mrs Brack upon her husband's death in 1975.

The National Insurance Commissioner asked the court to interpret the community provisions laying down procedures for the application of the legislation of certain member states. The court found that a person who was compulsorily insured against sick-

ness firstly as an employed person then in a self-employed capacity, under a scheme for the whole working population, could be considered to be covered by the EEC regulations. There is the proviso that his contributions as an employed person would have to be taken into account to qualify him for full benefits.

Case 19/76: Triches v Caisse de Compensation pour Allocations Familiales
This case questioned the validity of an EEC regulation governing the provision of social security for migrant workers.

Case 29/76: Lufttransport Unteruchmen v Eurocontrol
This concerned a ruling by the court on the meaning of the concept 'civil and commercial matters' as cited in article 1 of the convention of jurisdiction and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters (1968).

Case 32/76: Saiena v Caisse de Compensation pour Allocations Familiales
A case involving the interpretation of article 42(5) of EEC regulation no 3 and article 94(5) of regulation no 1408/71 governing the provisions of social security for migrant workers.

Commission authorises UK joint venture

Three UK steel firms received EEC commission authorisation to establish jointly the North Sea Iron Co Ltd. The new company will be involved in the construction and operation of an iron ore direct reduction plant on the north-east coast of England.

The firms concerned in the joint venture, which has been authorised under article 66 (1) of the European Coal and Steel Community treaty, are the Sheerness Steel Co Ltd, Tube Investments Ltd, and Manchester Steel Ltd, a subsidiary of Elken Spigerverket (UK) Ltd.

The new company will produce directly-reduced iron or 'sponge' iron, which is a high quality substitute for scrap and is especially suitable for charging electric steel furnaces.

£1 million line of credit for France

A £1 million line of credit which National Westminster Bank Ltd have made available to Banque de Paris et Des Pays-Bas, France has been guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The loan will help finance capital goods and associated service contracts placed in the UK by French buyers. UK suppliers will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources.

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £30,000 and be placed by 22 October 1977.

Exporters requiring further details of this facility should contact Mrs P. J. Canham of ECGD, 01-606 6699 ext. 7368.

EEC-Swiss confederation agreement

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L328, 26 November 1976, contains the text of regulation (EEC) 2816/76 concluding the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending the English version of Table II of protocol 2 to the agreement between the EEC and the Swiss confederation. The text of the protocol should be amended to read as follows:

Swiss customs tariff heading no	Description
1902 ex 10	preparations in which potato flour predominates whether or not in the form of semolina, flakes, etc., and *preparations containing powdered milk, excluding* preparations containing by weight more than 12 per cent of milk fats, in packages exceeding a net weight of 2kg

EEC-Efta free trade agreements

Changes to the rules of origin for some industrial goods. Under the free trade agreements signed in 1972 between the EEC and each Efta state (except Finland, with which an agreement was signed in 1973) provision was made for the progressive elimination of duties on most industrial goods originating in the EEC or Efta and passing between the two areas. In order for a commodity to qualify for 'originating' status, it must first satisfy origin rules which appear in protocol no. 3 to the free trade agreements. A product will be considered as 'originating' if:

a the product has been wholly obtained in the EEC or the Efta state concerned
b it contains a proportion of wholly obtained goods exceeding certain minimum limits set in either value or weight, or has undergone sufficient processing or working to satisfy the origin rules for that product.

It has been found that in a number of cases, the origin rules which were agreed in 1972 have either been overtaken by changes in manufacturing processes or by economic trading conditions and are no longer applicable. Council regulations (EEC) have been passed adapting the provisions of protocol no. 3 to each of the agreements to take account of the changes and also of the amendment of the tariff classification of non-crystallisable sorbitol. In list A of protocol no. 3, which relates to a product gaining originating status by undergoing a change of tariff heading brought on by processing or working the rules of origin for the following tariff headings have been amended: ex 38.19, 40.05, 59.11, ex Chapter 84 and ex 84.41. The tariff headings ex 28.13, 28.27, ex 29.28, ex 28.29, ex 28.30, ex 28.33, ex 28.42, ex 29.02 (organic bromides), ex 29.02 (trichoridi (chlorophenyl)) ethane, ex 29.35 (pyridine; alphapicoline betapicoline; gammapicoline), ex 29.38 and ex 98.15 and their respective rules are to be deleted from list A.

List B relates to certain processing or working which attracts to the product the status of 'originating' without the product undergoing a change of tariff heading. The following items have been added to list B, ex 26.19 (natural magnesium carbonate), ex 25.24 (natural asbestos fibre), ex 25.26 (milled and homogenised mica waste), ex 47.01 (bleached mechanical or sulphate pulp), ex 73.29 (skid chains) and ex 97.06 (golf club heads, etc). The arrangements under list B for ex 84.41 have been amended.

The texts of the EEC council regulations, nos. 2809/76 (Austria); 2810/76 (Finland); 2811/76 (Iceland); 2812/76 (Norway); 2813/76 (Portugal); 2814/76 (Sweden) and 2815/76 (Switzerland) covering the above changes which came into force on 1 December 1976 appear in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L 328 of 26 November 1976.

Inquiries on origin rules should be directed to General Division (Department of Trade), tel. 01-215 5750 and general inquiries concerning the EEC-Efta free trade agreements should be directed to Commercial Relations and Exports Division (Department of Trade), tel. 01-215 3728.

Common customs tariff

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L327, 26 November 1976, contains the text of regulation (EEC) 2842/76 amending annex IV to regulation (EEC) 816/70 laying down additional provisions for the common organisation of the market in wine, and the common customs tariff, as regards the exchange rate applicable to customs duties on certain wines.

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L329, 27 November 1976, contains the text of regulation (EEC) 2856/76 on the tariff treatment applicable in the community as originally constituted to a certain number of products imported from the new member states.

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L329, 27 November 1976, contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 2857/76 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duty for mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000kg falling within subheading ex 88.02 B II c).

Regulation (EEC) 2858/76 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on a number of tropical products.

Regulation (EEC) 2859/76 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial products.

Further information: Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel 01-215 5515 (Chemicals) 01-215 3576 (Other products), for imports into the UK; and Export Services and Promotion Division, Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel 01-248 5757, for imports into the other member states.

Temporary suspension of the CCT

United Kingdom requests. The Department of Trade gives notice that the UK has put forward to the EEC commission applications for new suspensions of the common customs tariff (CCT) in respect of the goods listed below. The applications, which relate to the period 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, are for total suspension of the CCT in each instance. Provided they are unanimously agreed by other member states of the community, UK importers will be able to import the goods free of duty from any source from 1 July 1977.

If any UK companies are already manufacturing any of the goods listed (or like or competing goods) or expect shortly to be in production, so that their interests would be adversely affected by a suspension of the CCT, they should notify the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. The information should be with the department not later than 7 January 1977. Tel. 01-215 5515 (chemicals) and 01-215 3576 (other goods).

Tariff heading	Description
07.04 B	Sweet red peppers, dried, dehydrated or evaporated
28.40 B II	diCalcium pyrophosphate (1) which contains not more than 2mg of lead per kg (2) of which not more than 0.1% by weight is retained on a sieve having a nominal aperture of 75 microns (3) which, when 10g are shaken for one hour with 100ml of 0.00667M stannous fluoride solution, and centrifuged, yields a supernatant solution containing not less than 0.0237g of stannous ions.
29.02 B	1,6,7,8,9,14,15,16,17,17,18,18-Dodecachloropentacyclo[12.2.1.1^{6,9}.0^{2,13}.0^{5,10}]octadeca-7,15-diene
29.02 C	Ethylbenzyl chloride, mixed isomers
29.35 Q	5-Ethyl-5,8-dihydro-8-oxo-1,3-dioxolo[g]-cinnoline-7-carbonitrile
29.35 Q	3-Oxo-21,24-dinorchol-4-eno-23,17*beta*-lactone
29.39 E	Androst-4-ene-3,17-dione
29.39 E	Conjugated oestroegens, equine
76.03	Aluminium alloy sheet in coils containing not less than 0.9% by weight and not more than 1.6% by weight of manganese and not less than 0.7% by weight and not more than 1.4% by weight of magnesium as the major alloying elements, of a width of not less than 550mm and not more than 700mm and of a thickness of not less than 0.40mm and not more than 0.45mm
76.10 A	Collapsible tubular containers, having a shoulder, nozzle and screw-on cap made of artificial plastics, and a body made of aluminium foil which has been laminated on the inner side to successive plies of (1) acrylic acid-ethylene copolymer and (2) polyethylene; and on the outer side to successive plies of (1) acrylic acid-ethylene copolymer, (2) paper and (3) polyethylene
78.01 A II	Lead alloy waste and scrap in ingot form for smelting

Other member states' requests. The Department of Trade has been notified by the EEC commission of requests for new suspensions of the CCT to operate for the period 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978 in respect of the goods listed below. In most cases a total suspension of the CCT has been requested. The proposed duty rates for items on which a partial suspension is requested are given in footnotes.

The department will wish to take account of UK interests in making its views known to the EEC before decisions are taken whether or not to grant these proposed suspensions. UK producers of the goods in question or of like or competing products are entitled to object where they consider that they are able to supply the whole or the greater part of the needs of the community and that their interests would be adversely affected by the loss or reduction of community preference on their exports to other member states.

Producers wishing to object to the granting of suspensions of the CCT on the goods listed below should provide as much as possible of the following information:

1 estimated community (nine countries including the UK) demand in 1977 and 1978;
2 estimated UK demand in 1977 and 1978;
3 UK production expected to be available in 1977 and 1978 for:
  3.1 the UK market in 1977 and 1978;
  3.2 the rest of the community in 1977 and 1978;
  3.3 exports to other countries in the same years.

This information should be sent in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, to arrive not later than 7 January 1977. Inquiries: tel. 01-215 5515 (chemicals) and 01-215 3576 (other goods).

Tariff heading	Description
03.01 B I h	Cod, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless, cleaned or gutted, intended for the processing industry
03.01 B I i	Coalfish, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless, cleaned or gutted, intended for the processing industry
03.01 B I k	Haddock, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless, cleaned or gutted, intended for the processing industry
03.01 B I m 2	Mackerel, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless, cleaned or gutted, weighing not less than 400g each, intended for the processing industry
03.01 B I q	Hake, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless, cleaned or gutted, intended for the processing industry
16.04 C II	Herring, salt-pickled, in barrels, intended for the processing industry (i)
28.21	Chromium dioxide
29.35 Q	4-Methylpyridine
29.35 Q	2, 3-Dihydro-2, 2-dimethyl-7-hydroxy-benzofuran
29.35 Q	Triazolam (INN)
29.35 Q	Minoxidil (INN)
30.01 B	Albumin in crude paste form obtained from human blood
32.07 C	Lanthanum oxybromide
38.11 C	2, 3-Dihydro-2, 2-dimethylbenzofuran-7-yl-N-methylcarbamate
38.19 U	Mixture of nitromethane and 1, 2-epoxybutane
39.01 C 1 a	Synthetic paper half stuff made of low-pressure polyethylene fibrils in forms mentioned in Note 3(a) or (b) to Chapter 39
39.01 C V	Polyurethane elastomers containing ether groups, in forms mentioned in Note 3(a) or (b) to Chapter 39 (ii)
39.02 C XI	Interposable film of polyvinyl butyral, in rolls of a width exceeding 200cm
39.02 C XIV a	Propylene-ethylene copolymer with an ethylene content of 3% by weight (tolerance 2.8 to 3.2% by weight) in forms mentioned in Note 3(b) to Chapter 39
39.03 BVb 2aa	Ethyl cellulose, plasticised
69.09 B	Supports for catalysts, made of porous cordierite ceramic materials, with a generally round or oval cross-section, with parallel sides and with a total volume of not less than 240ml and not more than 11,100ml for a minimum size of not less than 70mm and a maximum size of not more than 480mm, containing not fewer than 28 continuous pores per 100mm^2 running parallel to the main axis of symmetry; the total pore cross-section represents not less than 50% and not more than 80% of the total surface cross-section (iii)
70.20 A	Mats of non-textile glass fibres with a diameter of 3 to 7 microns
84.17 C	Straight-tube heat exchanger over 400 t in weight and over 20m long for nuclear reactors
84.59 B	Reactor pressure vessel consisting of the vessel shell, penetrated by primary coolant nozzles and core flooding nozzles, and of the vessel head
84.59 B	Control-rod drives with spindle roller nut drive mechanism for nuclear reactor including the necessary special tools

(i) The CCT is suspended until 30 June 1977 to 12 per cent; application is now made for a lower suspended rate (unspecified).
(ii) Application is for partial suspension (to 11 per cent).
(iii) Application is for continuation of an existing total suspension, the definition being amended to take account of technical developments.

Directive on pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables

EEC agriculture ministers adopted a directive on residues of certain pesticides in and on fruit and vegetables at their meeting on 22 to 23 November.

The directive, which seeks to prevent unreasonable barriers to trade, takes account of differing approaches within the community to the monitoring and control of pesticide residues and does not involve changes in the present UK arrangements or standards.

The directive applies to residues of a number of pesticides on most important types of fruit and vegetables, with the exception of potatoes. It provides that member states may not impede the marketing of these fruits and vegetables on the ground that they contain residues of the relevant pesticides if these residues are at or below the levels stated in the directive.

General control over levels of pesticide residues in food is exercised in the UK by local authorities and port health authorities under the general provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Imported Food Regulations 1968, and corresponding legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In addition, the government monitors residue levels by means of regular studies of sample diets and of body tissues, supplemented by special investigations of individual foodstuffs as necessary. As a further safeguard, recommendations on the use of pesticides under the official safety precautions scheme are designed to ensure that any residues on harvested crops would not present a risk to consumers.

The directive is to be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, obtainable from HMSO.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no 01-215 5051.)

Economic indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the member states of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

From 6 August 1976, actual unemployment figures rather than indices have been published. Unemployment rates reflect national practices of defining the rate rather than those based on the size of the labour force in 1970 which had been used previously. These changes are in concert with the comparison of international unemployment now published regularly in the *Department of Employment Gazette* where seasonally unadjusted figures are also to be seen.

TABLE 1 Industrial Production (excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[5]	EEC[3]	*United States*[4]	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.9	0.3	18.1	39.9	0.6	13.3	4.5	19.4	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	*43.3*	*11.9*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	106	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	112	106	109	104	111	102	106	*108*	*110*
1973	116	115	120	113	119	114	118	111	115	*118*	*127*
1974	120	119	123	112	123	119	121	108	116	*117*	*124*
1975	108	93	112	105	115	109	115	102	107	*107*	*110*
1975 1st quarter	112	103	114	106	115	110	117	107	109	*105*	*106*
2nd quarter	107	92	111	104	115	107	114	101	105	*103*	*110*
3rd quarter	105	82	110	103	115	106	111	100	105	*107*	*112*
4th quarter	108	95	114	108	116	111	119	102	109	*110*	*113*
1976 1st quarter	115	98	121	112	125	115	120	103	113	*118*	*119*
2nd quarter	121	104	122	113	125	121	121	104	114	*120*	*126*
3rd quarter								103			
1975 April	111	93	112	102		109	113	103	105	*103*	*109*
May	105	84	108	106		103	114	100	105	*103*	*110*
June	111	96	112	103		109	114	100	106	*104*	*111*
July	101	90	110	99		110	109	101	103	*105*	*114*
August	100	61	110	104		98	111	99	103	*107*	*112*
September	108	96	111	106		110	114	101	106	*109*	*114*
October	106	89	113	107		112	116	102	108	*109*	*114*
November	110	98	113	109		113	122	102	109	*110*	*112*
December	108	98	117	109		108	120	101	109	*111*	*114*
1976 January	111	97	120	110		110	120	102	111	*117*	*117*
February	114	98	120	114		117	120	103	114	*118*	*119*
March	120	99	122	111		117	121	103	113	*119*	*123*
April	122	99	122	112		118	121	104	114	*119*	*127*
May	120	107	122	111		124	121	106	114	*129*	*124*
June	121	105	123	115		122	122	102	115	*121*	*126*
July	107	92	125	108		121 (e)	119	104	113	*121*	*129*
August	122	83	125	114		119 (e)	119	103	115	*122*	*127*
September			128 (e)	112 (e)				104		*122*	*126* (e)
October										*121* (e)	*124* (e)
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	−3.3	−8.2	3.0	−1.2	nil	0.8	−0.8	−0.3	0.6	*0.8*	*−0.5*
On a year earlier	12.2	13.4	14.2	8.1	8.7	14.2	7.8	3.3	9.9	*12.3*	*10.9*

[1] Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture. [2] Mining and manufacturing only. [3] Excluding Denmark. (e) Estimated.
[4] From 1976, data are not comparable with those for earlier periods. [5] UK per cent changes are calculated with a non-rounded series
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 2 Unemployment seasonally adjusted

Numbers thousands

	Belgium[2]	Den-mark[4]	France[1]	German F.R.[1]	Ireland[2]	Italy[3]	Nether-lands[1]	United Kingdom[1]	*United States*[3]	*Japan*[3]
1971	71	30	337	185	42	613	62	776	*4,993*	*639*
1972	87	30	380	246	48	696	108	885	*4,840*	*730*
1973	92	20	394	274	44	669	110	611	*4,304*	*670*
1974	105	45	498	583	48	560	135	600[5]	*5,076*	*740*
1975	177	103	840	1,074	75	654	195	929	*7,830*	*1,000*
1975 1st quarter	141	101	708	1,019	69	553	174	738	*7,664*	*910*
2nd quarter	170	101	829	1 073	75	727	190	847	*8,203*	*962*
3rd quarter	191	99	915	1,110	78	653	207	1,000	*7,802*	*1,025*
4th quarter	210	111	916	1,141	80	698	211	1,132	*7,824*	*1,124*
1976 1st quarter	209	111	907	1,163	82	625	208	1,223	*7,151*	*1,067*
2nd quarter	230	98	950	1,027	84	755	206	1,247	*7,014*	*1,100*
3rd quarter	239 (e)	102 (e)	951 (e)	1,015 (e)		780	222 (e)	1,308	*7,439* (e)	*1,069* (e)
1975 June	180	96	878	1,084	77		193	894	*8,071*	*1,015*
July	183	85	885	1,113	78		202	968	*8,096*	*966*
August	191	104	864	1,121	77		207	997	*7,924*	*1,029*
September	199	107	933	1,097	79		210	1,034	*7,970*	*1,056*
October	211	109	928	1,132	80		211	1,089	*8,092*	*1,139*
November	211	107	913	1,137	80		211	1,133	*7,939*	*1,126*
December	208	117	906	1,153	81		211	1,175	*7,735*	*1,105*
1976 January	205	114	900	1,188	82		208	1,211	*7,290*	*1,092*
February	207	113	901	1,194	83		212	1,232	*7,136*	*1,066*
March	215	106	921	1,107	82		205	1,227	*7,027*	*1,043*
April	221	102	931	1,073	84		203	1,234	*7,040*	*1,080*
May	229	97	953	1,003	85		205	1,250	*6,860*	*1,108*
June	239	94	967	1,004	83		211	1,257	*7,143*	*1,112*
July	238	103	950	1,023	85		218	1,294	*7,426*	*1,117*
August	244	99	962	1,031	86 (e)		227	1,309	*7,506*	*1,120*
September	238	103	941	992			221	1,319	*7,384*	*1,067* (e)
October	242 (e)	115 (e)	935 (e)	1,016 (e)			214	1,306	*7,569* (e)	
November										
Rate % in latest month	8.7	10.5 (e)	5.2	4.4 (e)	12.4	3.8	5.2 (e)	5.5	*7.9*	*2.0*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	2.6	7.8	−1.1	0.3	1.2	3.3	4.4	3.5	*4.8*	*0.1*
On a year earlier	20.0	−0.9	4.1	−9.3	9.5	19.5	5.4	26.1	*−6.4*	*8.3*

Unemployment data are defined and collected on different bases in different countries. The following notes indicate the main variations which prevent direct international comparison.

1 Registered unemployed (excluding school leavers); rate per cent of total employees
2 Insured unemployed; rate per cent of total insured population.
3 Labour force sample survey; rate per cent of total labour force.
4 Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries; rate per cent of total numbers insured.
5 Estimated in the absence of figures for December 1974.
6 Averaged over component months. Rates per cent relate to the last period for which unemployment figures are given.
7 Some seasonally adjusted data have been estimated from unadjusted material.
8 UK per cent changes are calculated with a non-rounded series.

Source: OECD Main Economic Indicators and *Department of Employment Gazette*

TABLE 3 Exports (fob) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United King-dom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	15,392	24,340	153,152	*49,676*	*28,591*
1973	22,416	6,120	35,952	67,440	2,124	22,236	23,952	28,862	210,684	*71,316*	*36,936*
1974	28,260	7,716	45,900	89,160	2,628	30,288	32,436	37,188	275,100	*98,508*	*55,536*
1975	28,812	8,712	52,212	90,024	3,216	34,824	34,440	41,689	295,992	*107,652*	*55,752*
1975 1st quarter	7,893	2,199	13,557	23,625	771	8,712	8,928	10,835	77,121	*26,840*	*14,907*
2nd quarter	7,035	2,193	13,317	23,133	756	8,454	8,532	10,413	74,442	*25,795*	*13,842*
3rd quarter	6,408	2,055	12,441	21,060	795	8,697	7,869	9,859	69,813	*27,135*	*13,176*
4th quarter	7,227	2,241	12 876	22,356	852	9,015	9,138	10,470	74,865	*28,206*	*14,097*
1976 1st quarter	7,632	2,148	13,539	23,583	723	8,466	9,075	10,841	76,716	*26,619*	*15,882*
2nd quarter	7,767	2,241	13,956	24,549	813	8,820	8,691	10,828	78,303	*28,692*	*16,587*
3rd quarter				24,252 (e)				10,798			*16,976* (e)
1975 May	2,285	706	4,310	7,354	265	2,785	2,722	3,742	24,404	*8,414*	*4,571*
June	2,388	749	4,581	8,169	221	2,921	2,857	3,384	25,482	*8,788*	*4,481*
July	2,053	707	4,186	7,224	266	2,799	2,655	3,418	23,532	*8,868*	*4,423*
August	2,240	671	4,142	6,704	263	3,031	2,499	3,149	22,902	*9,119*	*4,420*
September	2,116	678	4,114	7,132	265	2,848	2,708	3,298	23,378	*9,147*	*4,333*
October	2,271	806	4,148	7,200	316	2,918	3,008	3,555	24,489	*9,303*	*4,764*
November	2,632	724	4,315	7,764	290	3,182	3,095	3,356	25,591	*9,527*	*4,467*
December	2,324	711	4,414	7,392	246	2,916	3,037	3,562	24,785	*9,376*	*4,849*
1976 January	2,488	768	4,425	7,747	247	3,062	2,903	3,600	25,456	*8,840*	*5,037*
February	2,648	683	4,637	7,692	247	2,591	3,017	3,552	25,328	*8,858*	*5,223*
March	2,495	698	4,478	8,145	228	2,813	3,155	3,686	25,931	*8,920*	*5,610*
April	2,550	723	4,568	7,981	290	2,775	2,899	3,552	25,551	*9,114*	*5,299*
May	2,622	780	4,899	8,459	274	3,319	3,009	3,636	27,230	*9,889*	*5,648*
June	2,594	738	4,488	8,100	249	2,725	2,785	3,634	25,511	*9,689*	*5,640*
July	2,293	740	4,321	7,842	270	3,120	3,100	3,480	25,369	*9,852*	*5,483*
August		791	4,687	8,368	257	2,623 (e)	3,000 (e)	3,624		*9,811*	*5,304* (e)
September				8,920 (e)				3,689		*9,996* (e)	*5,892* (e)
October								3,642			
% change in dollar terms latest three months:											
On previous three months	−2.4	3.1	-3.2	2.4	-2.0	−4.9	−2.0	1.9	1.7	*3.4*	*0.6*
On a year earlier	11.6	6.7	4.6	19.3	3.5	−3.2	10.9	9.5	6.4	*9.3*	*26.6*
% change in national currencies latest three months:											
On previous three months	−1.1	3.8	0.6	1.4	3.0	−6.3	−1.4	7.1	2.5	*3.4*	*−2.7*
On a year earlier	24.4	14.4	20.7	18.1	27.8	25.7	18.8	34.6	23.2	*9.3*	*23.7*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Series "A".'

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2,3]*	*Japan[2]*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,879	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	*55,819*	*23,463*
1973	21,936	7,704	37,380	54,492	2,784	27,816	24,360	38,872	215,232	*69,120*	*38,316*
1974	29,700	9,852	52,824	68,976	3,816	40,968	33,204	54,345	293,568	*100,968*	*62,112*
1975	30,708	10,332	54,240	74,208	3,804	38,364	35,148	53,686	300,048	*96,936*	*57,864*
1975 1st quarter	7,479	2,445	14,016	18,618	987	9,273	9,297	14,057	76,158	*25,002*	*14,895*
2nd quarter	7,359	2,415	13,131	18,678	924	9,039	8,760	13,094	73,395	*22,275*	*13,521*
3rd quarter	6,891	2,439	12,777	17,865	894	9,399	8,091	13,177	71,532	*24,303*	*14,451*
4th quarter	7,626	2,844	14,328	19,188	1,011	10,602	9,084	13,198	77,877	*25,515*	*15,129*
1976 1st quarter	7,752	2,856	15,138	20,043	1,032	9,798	8,901	13,224	78,771	*27,471*	*15,061*
2nd quarter	8,055	2,964	15,351	20,808	975	10,614	9,474	13,998	82,269	*28,725*	*14,994*
3rd quarter				21,223 (e)				14,307			
1975 May	2,414	809	4,244	5,882	310	2,823	2,886	4,290	23,658	*7,314*	*4,609*
June	2,453	790	4,472	6,222	295	3,234	2,988	4,377	24,836	*7,052*	*4,333*
July	2,267	803	4,294	5,847	302	3,142	2,676	4,520	23,848	*7,805*	*4,823*
August	2,185	805	4,173	5,843	286	2,814	2,544	4,447	23,097	*8,130*	*4,593*
September	2,440	830	4,309	6,174	305	3,443	2,870	4,212	24,587	*8,370*	*5,034*
October	2,456	874	4,644	6,320	308	3,288	2,766	4,397	25,049	*8,406*	*5,089*
November	2,605	978	4,897	6,307	357	3,637	3,203	4,367	26,349	*8,555*	*4,793*
December	2,565	991	4,786	6,562	345	3,676	3,116	4,439	26,478	*8,555*	*5,221*
1976 January	2,671	888	5,043	6,534	332	3,177	2,959	4,423	26,022	*9,425*	*5,126*
February	2,523	972	5,125	6,699	356	3,193	2,902	4,561	26,340	*8,820*	*5,037*
March	2,559	996	4,971	6,811	353	3,429	3,041	4,242	26,408	*9,226*	*4,884*
April	2,661	993	5,020	7,146	321	3,641	3,282	4,622	27,665	*9,651*	*4,975*
May	2,822	981	5,479	6,983	338	3,692	3,176	4,664	28,157	*9,192*	*4,899*
June	2,572	989	4,852	6,680	326	3,280	3,014	4,705	26,449	*9,883*	*5,120*
July	2,534	906	4,904	6,920	332	3,372	3,128	4,830	26,951	*10,936*	*5,537*
August		1,081	5,562	7,711	343	3,100 (e)	3,158 (e)	4,600		*10,682*	*4,745* (e)
September				7,223 (e)				4,870		*11,706* (e)	
October								4,708			
% change in dollar terms latest three months:											
On previous three months	2.4	0.2	−0.9	5.0	−1.1	−9.4	−2.1	−0.1	1.4	*16.0*	*4.4*
On a year earlier	11.1	24.1	18.4	22.3	13.4	6.1	13.3	8.6	12.7	*37.1*	*12.0*
% change in national currencies latest three months:											
On previous three months	3.8	0.8	3.0	3.9	3.9	−10.8	−1.5	5.0	1.6	*16.0*	*1.6*
On a year earlier	23.9	33.1	36.6	21.1	40.0	37.8	21.4	33.5	30.9	*37.1*	*9.4*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob. [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on current account

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	724	−544	297	729	−189	902	−522	1,760	3,157	*2,156*	*1,970*
1971	851	−423	530	323	−190	2,041	−155	2,630	5,616	*−1,323*	*5,821*
1972	1,113	−66	297	1,041	−134	2,266	1,290	386	6,193	*−5,550*	*6,624*
1973	1,140	−472	−691	4,341	−219	−2,510	2,310	−1,806	2,095	*7,156*	*−133*
1974	911	−982	−5,943	9,759	−708	−7,817	2,028	−7,829	−10,647	*2,330*	*−4,650*
1975	1,044	−508	330	3,924	−80 (e)	−528	1,569	−3,717	−150	*17,986*	*−682*
1973 1st quarter	366	−151	−225	560		−669	457	−740		*939*	*497*
2nd quarter	232	−179	280	1,035		−736	682	+51		*906*	*−416*
3rd quarter	217	69	−542	825		−14	35	−409		*965*	*101*
4th quarter	326	−211	−206	1,921		−1,060	1,136	−678		*4,346*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	339	−519	−1,602	2,787		−2,503	479	−2,117		*2,356*	*−3,274*
2nd quarter	−121	−311	−1,864	2,228		−2,433	522	−1,942		*−70*	*−2,377*
3rd quarter	323	−141	−1,930	863		−1,413	554	−1,911		*−2,381*	*−133*
4th quarter	370	−16	−547	3,881		−1,467	473	−1,859		*2,425*	*1,133*
1975 1st quarter	622	−88	−369	2,220		−459	146	1,612		*4,534*	*−925*
2nd quarter	141	45	941	768		142	596	−783		*5,486*	*−300*
3rd quarter	31	−72	−128	−432		859	194	−1,160		*1,795*	*−23*
4th quarter	251	−393	−114	1,368		−1,070	633	−239		*6,172*	*566*
1976 1st quarter	−411		−1,400 (e)	1,324		−1,413	823	−492		*2,829*	*−111*
2nd quarter			+700 (e)	607		−900 (e)	300 (e)	−907		*2,094*	*828* (e)
3rd quarter								−1,180			

Source: UK Economic Trends. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

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TABLE 6 Export unit values of manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands		United Kingdom		*United States*	Japan	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	105	105	108	102	106	105	104	101	106	105	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	112	99	115	105	117	102	114	106	117	104	116	111	*104*	*116*	*99*
1973	137	107	143	114	147	107	126	118	139	107	127	124	*113*	*141*	*107*
1974	171	133	162	140	172	122	154	160	178	132	153	155	*137*	*181*	*147*
1975	185	136	197	152	195	131	181	189	195	136	178	192	*159*	*178*	*147*
1973 1st quarter	122	102	126	110	124	103	119	110	124	105	119	118	*107*	*125*	*100*
2nd quarter	134	105	141	112	141	105	121	115	135	107	129	122	*111*	*136*	*100*
3rd quarter	148	108	153	115	162	106	131	120	148	124	131	127	*114*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter	147	113	152	121	157	109	133	125	152	112	132	133	*120*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter	150	123	141	125	154	114	133	137	154	121	134	141	*127*	*165*	*134*
2nd quarter	173	132	158	139	175	120	148	151	179	130	153	153	*132*	*183*	*142*
3rd quarter	177	137	170	147	175	125	163	171	186	137	159	162	*142*	*185*	*152*
4th quarter	183	138	181	151	183	126	171	181	192	138	165	170	*148*	*190*	*159*
1975 1st quarter	199	139	196	152	203	130	184	188	209	139	178	179	*156*	*192*	*157*
2nd quarter	192	134	208	153	203	130	183	184	205	136	182	188	*159*	*188*	*152*
3rd quarter	176	138	193	151	189	132	179	190	185	134	175	197	*159*	*179*	*148*
4th quarter	172	134	193	154	185	131	177	193	182	134	174	205	*162*	*169*	*143*
1976 1st quarter					187	132					178	214	*165*	*167*	*140*
2nd quarter											172	229	*167*		
3rd quarter											177	242			
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	−2.3	−2.9	Nil	2.0	1.1	0.8	−1.1	1.6	−1.6	Nil	2.9	5.7	*1.2*	*−1.2*	*−2.1*
On a year earlier	−6.1	−2.9	6.6	2.0	−7.9	1.5	3.5	6.6	−5.2	−2.9	1.1	22.8	*5.0*	*−13.0*	*−10.8*

(e) estimated.

Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A' : UK Department of Trade

TABLE 7 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104.3	104.7	106	105.3	105.3	108.9	104.8	107.5	109.4	*104.3*	*106.1*
1972	110.0	110.1	113	111.7	111.1	118.4	110.8	115.9	117.2	*107.7*	*110.9*
1973	117.7	116.8	123	119.9	118.8	131.8	122.4	125.2	127.9	*114.4*	*123.9*
1974	132.6	128.0	142	136.3	127.1	154.2	146.3	137.2	148.4	*127*	*154.2*
1975	149.5	141.7	156	152.2	134.7	186.4	171.1	151.2	184.4	*138.6*	*172.4*
1975 1st quarter	143.9	136.3	152	147.0	132.0	177.7	164.9	145.8	166.9	*135.0*	*166.4*
2nd quarter	147.7	140.1	156	150.6	134.5	188.5	169.3	149.9	182.7	*137.1*	*172.1*
3rd quarter	151.1	143.1	158	153.9	135.5	187.1	172.6	152.9	190.8	*140.1*	*173.6*
4th quarter	155.4	147.3	156	157.3	136.7	192.2	177.6	156.3	197.3	*142.3*	*177.7*
1976 1st quarter	158.7	151.1	162	161.0	139.1	206.3	186.0	159.0	204.4	*143.7*	*181.3*
2nd quarter	161.7	154.5	168	164.8	141.1	219.1	196.7	164.3	211.9	*145.5*	*187.6*
3rd quarter	164.7	157.0	171	168.6	141.1	222.4	202.0	165.4	216.8	*147.8*	*189.8*
1975 June	148.5	141.1	157	151.7	135.4		170.8	150.4	187.6	*138.1*	*172.4*
July	149.5	142.3	158	152.8	135.4		171.4	151.3	189.5	*139.6*	*172.8*
August	151.0	142.9	158	153.8	135.2	187.1	172.5	152.7	190.6	*140.0*	*172.4*
September	152.3	144.0	159	155.1	135.9		173.9	154.6	192.2	*140.7*	*175.6*
October	154.1	146.2	155	156.3	136.3		175.8	156.0	194.9	*141.5*	*178.5*
November	155.7	147.4	158	157.3	136.7	192.2	177.8	156.4	197.3	*142.4*	*177.3*
December	156.5	148.3	158	158.2	137.1		179.2	156.7	199.7	*143.0*	*177.2*
1976 January	158.0	150.5	159	159.9	138.2		181.1	157.5	202.3	*143.3*	*180.4*
February	158.5	151.3	160	161.0	139.2	206.3	185.1	159.0	204.9	*143.7*	*181.6*
March	159.5	151.6	167	162.4	139.7		188.8	160.5	205.9	*144.0*	*182.3*
April	161.0	153.8	167	163.8	140.6		193.8	163.9	210.0	*144.6*	*187.2*
May	162.2	154.7	169	164.9	141.2	219.1	197.7	164.5	212.3	*145.5*	*187.6*
June	162.4	154.9	169	165.6	141.5		198.6	164.5	213.4	*146.3*	*188.1*
July	163.7	156.1	169	167.2	140.9		199.6	163.7	213.8	*147.1*	*189.2*
August	164.4	157.3	170	168.4	141.4	222.4	201.8	165.4	216.8	*147.8*	*187.6*
September	166.5	157.5	174	170.2	141.4		204.7 (e)	167.2	219.7	*148.4*	*192.6*
October	166.8			171.8 (e)	141.4 (e)				223.7		
November	167.2 (e)										
% change last 3 months:											
On previous 3 months	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.6	0.1	1.5	2.7	0.7	3.2	*1.6*	*1.2*
On a year earlier	8.3	9.7	8.0	9.7	4.1	18.9	17.1	8.2	14.3	*5.5*	*9.3*

[1] Excluding rent.

(e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

Government Publications in Scotland

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR

TABLE 8 Value of retail sales Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[6 7]	Nether-lands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	121	126	125	122	122	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	130	148	152	137	139	*134*	*145*
1974	162	147	134	137	168	189	151	160	*143*	*165*
1975	183	167	147	149	199	206	169	191	*155*	*192*
1974 1st quarter	152	144	127	134	158	160	144	149	*138*	*157*
2nd quarter	160	148	131	135	165	166	150	154	*142*	*160*
3rd quarter	166	148	136	139	169	181	156	165	*148*	*170*
4th quarter	170	152	139	138	175	236	155	173	*142*	*173*
1975 1st quarter	175	161	141	146	183	181	164	181	*148*	*186*
2nd quarter	178	164	145	147	192	194	167	190	*153*	*192*
3rd quarter	184	166	147	151	200	192	170	194	*159*	*192*
4th quarter	192	180	154	154	216	264	176	199	*162*	*195*
1976 1st quarter	196	187	150	157	225	209	179	208	*169*	*200*
2nd quarter	201	187	153	157	234	239		212	*171*	*202*
3rd quarter								223		
1975 March	178	160	144	147	183	208	166	181	*147*	*191*
April	178	163	145	148	188	188	165	201	*150*	*191*
May	174	162	144	145	198	203	164	182	*154*	*192*
June	180	167	144	150	189	193	166	187	*155*	*193*
July	179	169	145	149	193	198	168	192	*159*	*193*
August	184	168	147	150	198	166	168	192	*160*	*194*
September	189	163	150	152	208	211	175	196	*158*	*190*
October	193	180	153	154	212	254	175	194	*160*	*197*
November	188	180	154	156	214	213	174	198	*161*	*194*
December	196	177	156	152	226	324	178	204	*165*	*195*
1976 January	195	181	150	155	222	201	176	211	*165*	*197*
February	196	208	148	159	236	197	178	207	*168*	*206*
March	196	172	151	158	218	228	183	206	*170*	*198*
April	199	188	150	156	231	242	185	214	*172*	*200*
May	201	179	156	157	233	235	183	210	*169*	*203*
June	203	194	154	158	238	239		212	*173*	*201*
July	205	193	150	155	222			219	*172*	*200*
August		192	160	160				223	*174*	*206*
September			161					226	*174*	
% change last 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	3.1	7.4	2.4	0.4	1.2	14.4	3.6	5.0	*1.2*	*1.0*
On a year earlier	14.3	15.3	6.6	5.4	19.5	22.6	14.3	15.0	*9.0*	*4.7*

[1] Department and chainstores.
[2] Including chainstores.
[3] Including indirect taxes.
[4] Not seasonally adjusted.
[5] Average weekly sales.
[6] Excluding motor vehicles.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2]	France	German F.R.[4] †	Ireland[2]	Italy[7]	Nether-lands[3]	Great Britain	*United States*[4]	*Japan*[5] †
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	111	116	112	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	126	129	121	123	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	153	138	135	159	154	143	143	*121*	*163*
1974	178	185	162	151	191	189	169	166	*131*	*205*
1975	210	223	185	165	246	239	192	209	*143*	*229*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	129	131	145	137	137	134	*118*	*148*
2nd quarter	144	151	133	134	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	154	168	144	140	168	168	148	150	*124*	*174*
1974 1st quarter	162	173	147	144	172	176	159	147	*126*	*178*
2nd quarter	173	185	155	151	188	184	167	159	*129*	*203*
3rd quarter	184	190	164	156	196	194	173	172	*133*	*211*
4th quarter	192	202	169	159	207	202	174	185	*137*	*215*
1975 1st quarter	201	211	173	159	222	225	184	194	*139*	*224*
2nd quarter	207	223	177	161	241	238	188	202	*141*	*220*
3rd quarter	213	226	187	165	255	245	196	215	*144*	*235*
4th quarter	221	235	190	170	265	249	197	226	*147*	*235*
1976 1st quarter	227	239	195	170	272	256	206	233	*150*	*255*
2nd quarter	232	249		174		277	206	242	*152*	*252*
3rd quarter		250 (e)				301 (e)			*156*	*247* (e)
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	2.2	0.4	2.6	2.4	2.6	8.7	nil	3.9	*2.6*	*–2.0*
On a year earlier	12.1	10.6	12.7	8.1	22.5	22.9	9.6	19.8	*8.3*	*5.1*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining.
[2] Earnings.
[3] Hourly rates industry: males.
[4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker.
[5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers.
[6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings.
[7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.

Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reine 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and Great Britain ('Department of Employment Gazette' and M.E.I.).

Overseas trade news

Metrication means better export prospects – Fraser

John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has challenged the British food industry to capitalise on the new export opportunities presented by metrication.

Addressing the annual luncheon of the British Food Export Council in London on 2 December, he said that the Weights and Measures Act 1976, which received royal assent on 22 November, provided a legislative framework for going metric. He was confident it would also bring new export opportunities to the food industry with consequent benefits to the national economy.

Since every major country to which the UK exported was, or was going, metric, the metrication of pre-packaged goods opened up new prospects for overseas sales. It offered the chance for rational production lines and the possibility of putting a pre-package straight off the production line on to the shelf of a shop in a customer country.

'Stocking up foreign larders and our own currency reserves deserves to be commended and encouraged,' he said. 'I hope in the new year to present a draft programme to parliament which will be the basis for consultation about the first cut-off orders. With the passage of the bill, parliament itself insisted on amendments and undertakings which give some outlines of a timetable.'

There would be a provision that foodstuffs made up in prescribed quantities would not be prohibited for sale in imperial measures before 21 April 1978. The date, he said, might appear somewhat strange at first sight, but it was the date on which, under existing EEC obligations, the UK had to accept metric pre-packs from other member states.

'To remove any misunderstanding,' Mr Fraser continued, 'I wish to make it clear that nothing in that amendment prevents actual orders – as opposed to effective dates – being made before 21 April 1978.'

The second undertaking was that no metrication of weighed-out meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, would take effect before 1 January 1980. Again, there was no restriction in the bill which prevented an order being made with the consent of parliament before that date and the trade and the public might well prefer an order giving generous notice of the change.

Mr Fraser said that the third matter was an amendment initially put forward by the opposition party, restricting the proposed prohibition powers when used in relation to the mile, inch, pint or gallon. This amendment was subsequently slightly amended by the government. The amendment had the effect of not allowing the secretary of state to prohibit the use of either the mile, foot, inch, pint or gallon on an across-the-board basis, but this was without prejudice to the power to restrict the use of these units on a selective sector-by-sector basis. So the inch could go early for fabrics or the gallon for petrol as long as the measure itself did not go completely.

'Another step', he said, 'which I believe will be to the benefit of both the consumer and the British food industry is adoption of the EEC directive on the average system set out in the directives on pre-packaged products covering both liquids and solids. The system is a statistically-based approach and sets a minimum threshold below which individual packages must not fall. In practice, I believe the average system can be easier and cheaper to enforce and will advance consumer protection.

'Primarily, the average system will be enforced at the packaging stage where batches can be checked immediately after filling, whereas the UK minimum system provides for enforcement at the retail stage. There will nevertheless need to be some continued monitoring at the retail level.'

The object of the EEC directives was to provide for the free circulation within the community of pre-packages complying with these directives. When the Weights and Measures Act 1963 had been altered to take account of this system, UK manufacturers would not have to operate different packaging lines to meet the different requirements of the UK market and EEC market insofar as quantity declarations were concerned.

Because the adoption of the average system would require fundamental changes to the Weights and Measures Act 1963, it was not expected that the UK could go on to the average system before mid-1978. There was a derogation for the UK on the EEC directives until 31 December 1979, but the government had no intention of waiting until the last minute.

'Most countries,' Mr Fraser concluded, 'already operate some kind of average system of filling and it is expected that major suppliers to the community will see some advantages in adopting a similar system to that contained in the directives.'

Low value consignment limit raised to £150

Partly as a result of changes in EEC regulations it is now possible to raise the value limits for simplified export documentation, using form C.273(LV), from the present level of under £100 (fob) to under £150 (fob) subject to a net weight limit of 1,000kg per item. The other conditions for using the form remain unaltered.

HM Customs and Excise has decided to continue the use of the present version of form C.273(LV), which is over-printed with the legend 'under £100'. But exporters should note that the form may nevertheless be used after 1 January 1977 for items up to the new limit, providing the quantity threshold of 1,000kg per item is not exceeded. Customs and Excise point out that the form does allow more than one item to be entered on it provided that goods under each of the tariff/trade code numbers are within the new monetary and weight limits.

It is estimated that this reduction in form-filling will affect about 30,000 export items a month.

Low-value trade is recorded in the overseas trade statistics in aggregate (under SITC(R) heading 931.02) though not analysed by commodity or country. The coverage of this heading will be changed from January 1977 after the change in the threshold value. It is estimated that, because of rising prices, the proportion of trade covered by this heading will be no greater than that covered when this system of recording low-trade was introduced some years ago (ie less than 0.5 per cent of exports and about 0.25 per cent of imports).

Tokyo counsellor to speak at London AGM

Guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Japan/Korea section of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday, 16 December will be Ben Thorne, commercial counsellor at the British Embassy in Tokyo. The meeting, which will start at 12 noon, is to be held at the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, and the chairman will be Derek Gorton of Barclays Bank International.

Mr Thorne will speak after the close of the formal meeting.

Further details of the meeting can be obtained from Diane Wright, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, tel. 01-248 4444.

Second round of air talks opens

Second round negotiations on the UK-United States Bermuda air agreement opened in London on Tuesday, 7 December. They will last until 15 December.

First round negotiations held in September agreed the programme of work for the talks.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1589: Revised arrangements for imports of textiles from Romania

This notice to importers replaces the provisions for goods in the Romanian categories 7-14, set out in notice to importers 1533 published in *Trade and Industry* on 9 January 1976.

The community has negotiated and initialled under the Gatt multifibres arrangement (MFA) an agreement with Romania on trade in textiles for the calendar years 1976 and 1977. The agreement provides for Romania to restrain at agreed levels exports to the community of certain textile products intended for domestic consumption, and will apply as from 1 January 1976. Pending announcement of community legislation to conclude the agreement its provisions are being operated de facto as set out in the following paragraphs. Should the subsequent legislation result in any change in the provisions outlined here a further notice to importers will be issued.

Scope of the agreement and quantitative levels to be applied under community arrangements

The textile items covered by the agreement and the levels to be adhered to by Romania in respect of exports of those items to the UK are set out below. Category and CCCN headings are given above each description.

Description	Unit	UK quota levels 1976	1977
1/55.09 Other woven fabrics of cotton **1/56.07** Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste)	Tonnes	210	315
2/ex 60.03 Stockings, under stockings, socks, ankle-socks, sockettes and the like, knitted or crocheted not elastic nor rubberised, *other than women's stockings of synthetic textile fibres*	1,000 pairs	350	525
3/ex 60.04 Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie;* shirts, vests, t-shirts, singlets and the like	1,000 pieces	1,600	1,859
4/ex 60.04 Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, or of flax or ramie:* *other than shirts, vests, t-shirts, singlets and the like, tights and panti-hose, pyjamas and nightdresses*	1,000 pieces	2,900	3,215
5/ex 60.05 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised, *other than articles of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie:* jerseys, pullovers, slip overs, twin sets, cardigans, bed jackets and jumpers	1,000 pieces	900	1,026
6/ex 61.01 Men's and boys' outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax, of ramie or of hemp:* suits	1,000 pieces	370	384
7/ex 61.01 Men's and boys' outer garments *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax, of ramie or of hemp:* jackets, blazers and the like	1,000 pieces	237	241
8/ex 61.01/ex 61.02 Men's, boys' women's, girls and infants (*other than babies'*) outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax, of ramie or of hemp:* garments of textile fabric of headings 59.08, 59.09, 59.11 or 59.12; men's and boys' overcoats and other coats; women's, girls' and infants' coats, jackets, and blazers	1,000 pieces	120	146
9/ex 61.03 Men's and boys' under garments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax, of ramie or of hemp:* shirts	1,000 pieces	330	404
10/ex 62.02 Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen *other than those of flax, of ramie or of hemp;* curtains and other furnishing articles, *other than those of flax, of ramie or of hemp*	Tonnes	175	187
18/ex 60.05 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted not elastic nor rubberised, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax or of ramie:* *other than jerseys, pullovers, slip overs, twin sets, cardigans, bed jackets and jumpers*	Tonnes	105	112
20/ex 61.02 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments, *other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk, of flax, of ramie or of hemp:* shirts and blouses	1,000 pieces	100	107
21/54.05 Fabrics of flax or of ramie **21/ex 62.02** Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen of flax; curtains and other furnishing articles of flax	Tonnes	18	27

Account will be taken of the amount of goods already exported from Romania in 1976. The quotas will be administered by the Romanian authorities, who will issue export certificates to UK importers, in accordance with the normal arrangements for the import of restricted textiles from Romania. Importers who obtain an export certificate should sent it, together with a completed form ILB/A, to Import Licensing Branch at the address shown above, who will issue UK import licences up to the appropriate quota limit.

Existing UK restrictions

Certain textile items whose levels of exports for the UK are currently restrained are not however covered by quotas established under the EEC/Romania agreement. These goods fall into three categories: textiles subject to the Gatt MFA which have been liberalised, but which are in some cases subject to special consultation procedures under the terms of the agreement; textiles subject to the Gatt MFA which are not covered by the agreement but whose existing quotas are subject to UK phasing-out arrangements; and residual autonomous UK quotas for non-MFA textile items. The arrangements for importing goods within these three categories are set out in the following paragraphs.

Goods freed from quantitative restriction, of which some are subject to special consultation procedures

The goods set out below are now freed from quantitative restriction, but some are the subject of special consultation procedures under the terms of the agreement, designed to facilitate the introduction of quantitative limits should exports to the community or any of its regions reach disruptive levels. These items therefore now become subject to surveillance licensing arrangements, details of which are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502. Licences issued under the previous restrictive arrangements may continue to be used until either they are exhausted or their period of validity expires.

Tariff heading	Description
51.04	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (continuous), including woven fabrics of monofil or strip of heading no 51.01 or 51.02
53.11	Woven fabrics of sheep's or lambs' wool or of fine animal hair
55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale
55.06	Cotton yarn, put up for retail sale
55.07	Cotton gauze
55.08	Terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, of cotton
56.05	Yarn of man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste), not put up for retail sale
58.04	Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics
58.05	Narrow woven fabrics, and narrow fabrics (bolduc) consisting of warp without weft assembled by means of an adhesive, *other than goods falling within heading no 58.06*
ex 58.10	Embroidery, in the piece, in strips or in motifs, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
59.07	Textile fabrics coated with gum or amylaceous substances, of a kind used for the outer covers of books and the like; tracing cloth; prepared painting canvas; buckram and similar fabrics for hat foundations and similar uses
ex 59.13	Elastic fabrics and trimmings (*other than knitted or crocheted goods*) consisting of textile materials combined with rubber threads
ex 60.02	Gloves, mittens and mitts, not elastic nor rubberised, knitted or crocheted to shape
ex 60.03	Women's stockings of synthetic textile fibres
ex 60.04	Tights and panti-hose, pyjamas and night-dresses
ex 61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments, *other than those wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp and other than suits, jackets blazers and the like, garments made of textile fabric of headings 59.08, 59.09, 59.11 or 59.12, overcoats and other coats*
ex 61.02	Women's, girls' and infants, outer garments, *other than those wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp and other than garments (other than those of silk or noil or other waste silk) of textile fabric of headings 59.08, 59.09, 59.11 or 59.12, coats, jackets and blazers, shirts and blouses.* Babies' garments of textile fabric of headings 59.08, 59.09, 59.11 or 59.12, coats, jackets and blazers
ex 61.03	Men's and boys' under garments, *other than those wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp and other than shirts not of silk or noil or other waste silk*
ex 61.04	Women's, girls' and infants' under garments, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs, wholly or mainly of woven cotton or of man-made fibres

ex 61.07	Ties, bow ties and cravats, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
ex 61.09	Corsets, corset belts, suspender belts, brassieres, braces, suspenders, garters and the like, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
ex 61.10	Gloves, mittens, mitts, stockings, socks and sockettes, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
ex 61.11	Made-up accessories for articles of apparel, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets, *other than electric blankets*, wholly or mainly of woven cotton
ex 62.04	Tarpaulins, sails, awnings, sunblinds, tents and camping goods, wholly or mainly of woven cotton

Goods subject to UK phasing-out arrangements

Restrictions on the items set out below are being phased-out in accordance with article 2 of the Gatt MFA; the overall quota level for the period 1 January to 31 December 1976 is 60,000 sq yds. The 1977 arrangements will be set out in a separate notice, to be published shortly.

Cat. no.	Tariff heading	Description
P.1	ex 60.01	Knitted or crocheted fabrics, not elastic nor rubberised, wholly or mainly of man-made fibres, *other than fabric resembling lace*
P.2	ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, wholly or mainly of woven cotton or of man-made fibres
P.3	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets, *other than electric blankets*, wholly or mainly of man-made fibres, of wool or of fine animal hair
P.4	ex 62.05	Other textile articles (including dress patterns) made up from fabrics exceeding 30cm in width, of cotton, of man-made fibres or of wool

The Romanian authorities will administer this quota by issuing export certificates to be submitted by UK importers, together with a completed form ILB/A, to obtain UK import licences, as set out above.

Residual autonomous UK quotas for non-MFA textiles

The items set out below are not subject to the Gatt MFA, and the present restrictions will continue. The quota for the calendar year 1976 is £46,000, and covers the following items:

Cat. no.	Tariff heading	Description
F.1	ex 61.01 ex 61.02	Outer garments wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp
F.2	ex 61.03 ex 61.04	Under garments wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp
F.3	ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp
F.4	ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp
F.5	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats, wholly or mainly of flax of ramie or of hemp
F.6	ex 62.06	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen, kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles wholly or mainly of ramie or of hemp

The quota will be administered by the Romanian authorities, who will issue export certificates, which may be used by UK importers, together with a completed form ILB/A, to obtain UK import licences, as set out above. The arrangements for 1977 will be set out in a further notice to importers to be published shortly.

Imports for re-export

Imports of restricted textiles from Romania will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported in the same state or after limited processing:

1 outside the EEC if subject to quotas established by the agreement or to residual autonomous UK quotas.
2 outside the UK if subject to UK phasing-out arrangements.

The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the UK are set out in notice to importers 1441.

UK import surveillance

In addition to the textiles covered by this notice most other textiles from Romania and other non-EEC countries are subject to UK surveillance arrangements. Descriptions of these goods and the licencing arrangements are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 280.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Austria, Cyprus, Senegal and Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Cuba, Japan, Ghana and Portugal have been published in the *Hints to Business men* series. British businessmen who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room DO5, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any regional office of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd, 8-10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

Imports of speciality steels under quota into the US

Trade and Industry recently published details of a revision to the United States quotas on imports of certain articles of stainless steel or alloy tool steel from the EEC (including the UK).

The table below, derived from statistics made available by the US customs service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas on imports from the EEC for the period 14 June to 13 December 1976, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period as at 26 November.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Product	US import quotas for period 14 June to 13 December 1976 (pounds weight)	US imports during this period as at 26 November (pounds weight)
Sheets and strips of stainless steel (item 923.20)	18,960,000	Quota filled
Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	3,480,000	Quota filled
Bars of stainless steel (item 923.22)	3,000,000	386,432
Wire rods of stainless steel (item 923.23)	8,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (item 923.25)	7,000,000*	1,269,993
Alloy tool steel (item 923.26)	4,080,000	3,415,543

* This figure is the annual quota. It is understood there is no 60 per cent limitation on this for the six-month period ending 13 December 1976.

Australian-British Trade Association: change of address

The Australian-British Trade Association (ABTA) has moved to 6th floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4FW, tel. 01-930 2524.

ABTA has recently installed a facsimile service capable of scanning an A4 page of printed, written or drawn material, and transmitting it between their offices in London and Sydney. Prospective users of the service, which is available to non-members of the association, should contact ABTA for details of charges.

ECGD backs £5 million loan for Yugoslavia

A £5 million loan which Manufacturers Hanover Export Finance Ltd, acting on behalf of Lloyds Bank Ltd, have made available to Privredna Banka in Zagreb is being backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The loan will help finance a £9.7 million contract awarded to Foster Wheeler Ltd of Reading by Ina Commerce. Foster Wheeler will be responsible for the design, supply of equipment and construction supervision of a fluid catalytic cracking and gas concentration unit with associated services at the Sisak refinery. Commissioning of the plant is scheduled for the autumn of 1978.

Lucas launch Export Year campaign

Lucas, 11 times winner of the Queen's Award to industry (four times for export achievement), launched a £50,000 Export Year campaign on 1 December.

Among a whole host of export incentives offered to employees is a top prize of a Concorde flight for two to Washington. The Lucas Export Year is closely linked with the national Export Year campaign, organised by

the British Overseas Trade Board.

Bernard Scott, chairman of Lucas Industries and a member of the Export Council for Europe, the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Overseas Trade Advisory Council, feels that the success of Export Year depends on involvement, – 'We want involvement right down to working groups on the shop floor or in the office.' The Lucas Export Year will highlight the importance of exports to national recovery, industrial prosperity and employment, and therefore to Lucas and Lucas people.

Hong Kong industries 1977 exhibition schedule

Exhibitions organised by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries in the exhibition hall during 1977 are as follows:

Scientific equipment show, 8 July to 12 July.
Office equipment show, 16 September to 20 September.
Industrial chemicals show, 9 December to 13 December.

Further details about the exhibitions and the industrial exhibitions scheme may be obtained from Exhibitions Department, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Eldex Industrial Building, 12th Floor, Unit A, 21 Ma Tau Wei Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Chinese shipbuilders visit Instron

Instron Ltd of High Wycombe, manufacturers of materials testing machines and systems, were hosts recently to a seven-man delegation from the People's Republic of China. The delegation were members of the Chinese Shipbuilding Engineering Society Study Group for Test Equipment and Technology for the Performance and Structure of Ships.

The purpose of the visit, arranged at the request of the Chinese, was to see the Instron factory and to discuss the applications of Instron testing equipment in the shipbuilding industry.

Mr W. E. Mason, Instron's marketing director, greets Shih Kuo-Ching, leader of the Chinese shipbuilders delegation.

Success of Scottish trade visit to Poland and Hungary

Reciprocal agreements between the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) and the chambers of commerce and industry in Poland and in Hungary have been proved to be of value by the success of the November trade group visit to these countries organised by the Scottish Council.

An initial survey of the companies taking part – many of them paying their first visit to these new markets – revealed that they had already been asked to quote for over £2 million worth of business. There were also very considerable prospects if companies were able to develop efficiently the important contacts which had now been established with buying agencies, institutes, ministries and end users in these two countries as a direct result of the council's reciprocal agreements.

Already a number of these companies are planning individual follow-up visits on their own account and the possibility of a return visit to Scotland next year by trade groups from both Poland and Hungary is being discussed.

Export initiative to Nigeria and Ghana by Manchester businessmen

An 18-man trade mission to Nigeria and Ghana sponsored by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry, left the UK on 28 November.

This mission is partly a follow-up to a mission a year ago which visited Nigeria only. There is also a number of newcomers on the mission seeing the area for the first time.

A broad range of products and services is represented, from confirming house and export finance services to fire engines, catering equipment and textiles, illustrating the diversity of industry established in the greater Manchester region and the efforts that are being made to improve UK exports to these markets, both of which require personal visits to the man on the spot.

Birmingham's successful tour of Trinidad and Jamaica

Commenting on the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce's recent trade mission to Trinidad and Jamaica, the mission's secretary, Richard Grier, said that it had been much more successful than anyone had hoped.

In Trinidad, the recent increase in wealth from the high price of oil had induced a frame of mind where 'money is no object'. 'Speed of delivery, quality and style are the important factors, not the cost. The buyers just didn't want to see our price lists,' said Mr Grier.

In Jamaica, where government elections are likely to be held soon, the visit produced more immediate orders than anticipated and a number of the companies represented on the misson were able to make arrangements for joint venture in manufacturing in the country.

Mission members were warmly welcomed in both markets and were delighted by the interest in and friendship shown towards the UK.

Manchester trade mission to go to Brazil

A trade mission to Brazil from 16 to 27 May 1977 is being sponsored by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Although the Brazilian government has introduced various measures to restrict direct imports for balance of payments reasons, Brazil is still a vast market and UK firms need to guard against the danger of neglecting trade opportunities. The chamber believes that the mission in May will be an appropriate time for UK firms to gain a first-hand assessment of the situation and prepare for the possible phase of new business expansion on a world basis in 1978. There is therefore an increased need for British companies wishing to do business with Brazil to consider seriously some form of local investment, either in the form of a Brazilian subsidiary or a joint venture arrangement with the Brazilian partner.

Further information about the mission may be obtained from the Deputy Director, Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ship Canal House, King Street, Manchester M60 8AH, tel. 061-832 5574.

UK plastics mission breaks through in Japan

Don Penny, news editor of 'Plastics and Rubber Weekly', who accompanied a recent British plastics industry mission to Japan, reports on the success of the mission and on the Japanese economic background

Returning from their first major trade mission to Japan the British plastics industry has claimed a 'substantial breakthrough' and an unexpected bonus: business prospects in excess of £1.75 million.

The mission, led by Mr R. E. G. Windsor (consultant, GKN Windsor Ltd), was sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Plastics Federation. It made a broad sweep of the market, offering a wide variety of quality products and services from advanced processing machinery and ancillary equipment to raw materials, polymer technology, licences, and components for the aerospace, electronics, building, sports, agricultural, and engineering industries.

The initial business successes are known to be in direct sales of machinery and chemical additives, reinforced by a number of important licensing and agency agreements.

Although delegates are now individually evaluating the success of the mission all seem agreed that the visit served a useful purpose in establishing or furthering trade dialogues with buyers in Japan.

However, it is generally recognised that export strategies in most cases will have to take account of intense competition from the United States, West Germany, France and other parts of the EEC, as well as the steady technical progress and achievements of a vigorous domestic plastics and rubber industry intent upon meeting its own needs and most of those of leading markets in Asia.

Nevertheless, initial impressions are that export prospects are far brighter than anticipated. But much will depend upon 'aggressive marketing' and 'vigorous follow-up,' according to Mr Windsor, who adds, 'other foreign competition is already well established.' The British Plastics Federation will be sponsoring a plastics and rubber technology exhibition at the British Export Marketing Centre, Tokyo in April 1978. Firms interested in participating should contact the federation as soon as possible.

During its visit, the mission toured Japanplas 76 at Osaka, one of the most important plastics and rubber exhibitions in Asia. This allowed an assessment of technological progress and achievement, trends, and market opportunities, confirming persistent reports that the domestic industry is still making only a 'sluggish' recovery.

Japanese manufacturers of general-purpose plastics materials plan to continue holding down their production rates until the end of the year, and leading petrochemical companies, including Nippon Petrochemicals, admit further reductions in output.

However, small-sized injection machines were in demand as the result of cautious investment, but sales of larger injection and extrusion machines remain depressed.

Although foreign inquiries about the state of the industry were politely passed over it is clear than many of the country's leading moulders and processors are worried.

As in Britain, Japanese manufacturers are pinning their hopes on export-led recovery. But current complaints about over-trading and dumping by Japan, as well as calls for voluntary restraints on exports, are temporarily undermining industrial confidence. For the first time since the war, in fact, there is now anxiety about job security, even in the elite management cadres of firmly established petrochemical, plastics and rubber companies.

During the brief visit of the mission, Japanese newspapers began to report the 'pause' in the country's recovery in terms of another *nakadarumi* or slump. This naturally had a further depressing effect on sales talks, although the decline in actual terms measured little more than 1.7 per cent of the total manufacturing output.

Economic and political factors, temporary or otherwise, will need to be carefully studied by the mission, as export opportunities may depend heavily on the form of 'administrative guidance' being offered to an anxious industry by the influential Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Miti).

Miti officials express particular interest in imports of sophisticated British technology. Since 1950, it is claimed, Japan has imported around 26,000 technology 'contracts', about 2,000 of them in the past year. British plastics and rubber firms, therefore, may expect to find a readier market for their know-how than for their end products.

Miti officials, however, have categorically denied any form of 'administrative guidance' over imports of plastics and rubber process machinery, materials, or products, and this is being taken as a further assurance by the mission that no 'invisible barriers' will prevent increased sales to Japan.

The BPF/BOTB mission is confident, therefore, that in Japan it has laid down a firm base for rewarding trading relations whatever the outcome of the continuing trade discussions between the EEC and Japan.

Mr R. E. G. Windsor, leader of the British plastics industry mission to Japan, heads the discussion at a packed news conference in Tokyo.

Overseas trade country data

Australia

Coated paper and paperboard for use in the manufacture of containers. A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 26 November 1976 reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on whether polyethylene coated paper and paperboard should be admitted into Australia under by-law.

Polyethylene coated paper and paperboard falls at present within sub-item 48.07.9 of the customs tariff, but if prescribed by a by-law would be specified in a determination for the purposes of sub-item 48.07.1. If so found, the commission has been asked to specify from what date, and subject to what other conditions, if any, sub-item 48.07.1, should apply to these goods.

Intending witnesses at the public inquiry, the date of which has yet to be fixed, have been asked to complete a circular and return it immediately to The Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia. Copies of the circular are available from Room 336, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Evidence at public hearings may be submitted either by the nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4FW (01-930 2524), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1902/76

Devaluation. The Australian Treasurer announced on 28 November that with effect from the opening of business on 29 November, the Australian dollar would be devalued by 17½ per cent. He said that the government had been forced to devalue because of deterioration in Australia's underlying external situation as a result of the disparity in wage costs between Australia and her major trading partners and the continuing loss of reserves.

The government also announced new arrangements for administering the exchange rate. The rate in relation to the 'basket' of currencies will be kept under review and, in effect, the government will be adopting a flexibly administered rate somewhat along the lines of a managed float.

The following measures designed 'to maximise the beneficial effects' of devaluation were also announced by the Treasurer:

1 Further increase of approximately ½ per cent in official interest rates;
2 Closer monitoring of lending by banks;
3 A further review of government expenditure to be put in hand immediately; and
4 Substantial tightening of wage policy to be achieved through arguing in the strongest possible terms for restraint in the December quarter National Wage Case.

Revaluation: It was subsequently announced on 7 December that the dollar had been revalued upwards by 2 per cent.

A spokesman for the Treasurer said that the dollar was being revalued because the vast outward flow of funds, which was one of the prime reasons for devaluation, had begun to reverse.

The government also announced a 2 per cent selective cut in trade tariffs. Further details will be published as soon as available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref. CRE 36473

Temporary protection request on waterproof and showerproof garments and pilches. The Department of Industry and Commerce in Australia has received a request for temporary protection against imports of waterproof and showerproof garments and pilches falling within items 60.05, 61.01, 61.02 and 39.07, of the customs tariff.

Interested parties, either in support of or in opposition to the request, may submit their views to the department for consideration. Requests for temporary protection are normally received by the department, and at a subsequent stage may be referred to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of the reference. Any temporary protection which may be accorded the goods by the government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority will be in the nature of a holding action pending long-term protection requirements for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industrial Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that, it has been made clear that, should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the reference will be subject to the action. Australian importers therefore have been urged to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at the public hearing, either by the nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London, SW1 (01-930 2524), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise The Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, by 10 December 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1989/76

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Export (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Belgium

Food additives decree. The *Moniteur Belge* 224 of 20 November 1976 published a decree dated 30 August 1976 concerning additives permitted in foodstuffs. The decree comes into force on 1 January 1977 and repeals the decree of 18 September 1967 on foodstuffs additives, last amended 18 September 1975.

Foodstuffs manufactured, prepared or imported before 1 January 1977 in accordance with the decree of 18 September 1967 may still be marketed until 31 December 1977. A translation of the preamble to the decree is being prepared but copies (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Brazil

Revision of customs warehousing regulations for imports. Ministerio da Fazenda Portaria 396, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 5 November 1976, revised the list of tariff headings which may be allowed to use the customs warehousing facilities on import. Portiara 225, which set out a previous list is revoked.

Goods currently benefiting from this regime but which are not included in the new list may remain in the warehouse until the expiry of their fixed period of deposit, but this period may not be extended.

Only goods having the prior authorisation of Cacex may use these facilities.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on lead ore. Customs Policy Council resolution 2859, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 1 November, exempted a quota of 39,000 tonnes of concentrated lead ore, having a minimum lead content of 70 per cent, of tariff heading 26.01.06.99, from import duty. The concession has a validity of one year, lapsing on 1 November 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Canada

Health and welfare information letters. The Health Protection Branch of the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare has issued the following information letters:

1 No 483 contains proposals for standards to be established for disposable insulin syringes. Comments should be made by 5 January 1977 to the Director, Bureau of Medical Devices, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A OL2.
2 No 484 contains proposed labelling requirements for *in vivo* radio diagnostic kits. Comments should be made as soon as possible to the Chief, Radiation Protection Bureau, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1C1.

Copies of the information letters are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

Quotas and clothing imports. Following a Canadian Textile and Clothing Board Report, the Canadian government imposed quotas on imports of clothing from all sources with effect from midnight 29 November.

The following items of clothing are included in the quotas:

pants (jeans, slacks and shorts), blouses and women's shirts, pyjamas and sleepwear, sportswear (including dresses and co-ordinates), top coats, overcoats and outer jackets, men's and boys' shirts, leisure suits, raincoats, foundation garments, swimwear, underwear, men's tailored suits, leather coats and sweaters.

Shipments of clothing, except outerwear, which were in transit at midnight on 29 November, will be allowed into Canada against permits issued automatically against proof that they were then in transit. Permits for other imports will be issued to individual importers only up to the level of their 1975 imports. Such imports in the remainder of 1976 will be counted against 1977 allocations.

Imports of outerwear in 1977 will be limited to approximately 2.3 million units from all sources. Those imports of outerwear which were already in Canada when the quotas were announced but had not cleared customs will be released against permits issued on request but such imports will count against importers' 1977 allocations.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Fiji

Import duty increases. In the Fiji budget the following changes in import duty were announced, effective from 19 November:

1 Increase of 5 per cent: Cosmetics and toilet preparations, laundry soaps and detergents, garments, handkerchiefs, scarves and ties, table linen.
2 Increase of 2½ per cent: Footwear.

The following import duty rates are now effective for wines and spirits:

Spirits – 19.57 Fiji dollars per imperial gallon
Still wines – 5.44 Fiji dollars per gallon
Sparkling wines – 6.21 Fiji dollars per gallon

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Greece

Transfer of items to import list A. As from 23 September 1976 uncoated wire of high carbon steel under tariff heading 73.15 A7a, of a diameter of 4 to 8mm only, used in reinforced construction shall be included on import list A. From 29 October 1976 wire of a diameter of 0.2 to 4mm, intended for any use and falling under tariff heading 73.15 A7a shall also be included on import list A.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Republic of Ireland

Excise duties. The Revenue Commissioners of the Republic of Ireland have decided that knitted stretch car seat covers and steering wheel covers, classified under tariff heading 87.06, qualify for exemption from excise duty. Exemption from the 37.5 per cent excise duty applicable to these products can be obtained by the importer applying for an excise authorisation from Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Division 4, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/457/288.

Israel

Packaging of hormonal herbicides. Regulations have been issued regarding the packaging of hormonal herbicides (weed control preparations which include phenoxyacetic acid or the derivative thereof).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Excise tax on intoxicating liquors and methylated spirits. The Israeli authorities have announced that the excise tax levied on intoxicating liquors and methylated spirits has now been revoked.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Kuwait

General port rules: warehousing. A decree issued on 9 November 1976, amends paragraph (1) of article (73) of the General Ports Ordinance (law 100/1976). This reads:

Goods remaining in the warehouses of the Customs and Ports for the period of 90 days from the date of their discharge from the transport facilities that were carrying them, without being cleared and received by the people concerned; shall be sold by public auction in accordance with the arrangements made by the Port and Customs Authorities. Such sale by auction shall be announced at least 10days prior to the date set therefor.

The 90 days period prescribed in the preceding paragraph shall apply to the goods presently found in the warehouses of the Customs and Ports, and the people concerned shall be granted a period of one month from the date thereof or the remaining part of 90 days, whichever is longer, to clear and receive their goods, or else they shall be sold in auction.

This decree became effective on 14 November 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062.

Lebanon

Market pointer. With the cessation of hostilities opportunities are arising in Lebanon for British industrial and commercial enterprises. Major opportunities exist in reconstruction. It is understood that the

most urgent requirements are for plant and earth-moving equipment, communications, pre-fabricated warehousing and housing, garbage disposal equipment and other equipment for local administration.

The import of foodstuffs and other essential consumer goods is increasing rapidly and there will be a demand for a wide range of consumer durables for hotel, restaurant and domestic re-equipment.

It is advisable for British businessmen visiting the Lebanon to obtain visas before departure. Should they arrive without one, a visa is normally granted for 15 days; an application can be made for extension at the Sûreté'.

There are now frequent air services to and from London, Paris and a number of other European and Middle Eastern cities. Telephone services have much improved both internally and internationally and there are limited telex facilities. Some hotels are functioning and taxis are available (during hours of daylight) in and around Beirut. Although not back to pre-war standards, life in Lebanon is now bearable and allows business to be conducted; it should be noted that the British embassy in Beirut is not yet back to full strength and at present there is no commercial officer in residence.

Malta

Import licensing control. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 23 November 1976, announced that with immediate effect the importation of coal and coke will require a specific import licence.

At the same time, it announced certain changes to the text of the Importation (Control) Regulations 1969.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

New Zealand

Devaluation. Following the devaluation of the Australian dollar on 29 November, the New Zealand dollar was devalued on 30 November by 7 per cent against all currencies except the Australian dollar. This in effect meant a 12.7 per cent revaluation upwards against the Australian dollar.

Inquiries: 01-215 5321.

Nigeria

Public holidays 1977. The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs has announced the following as public holidays for 1977:

31 December 1976 New Year's Day; 1 March 1977 Id-El-Maulud; 8 April 1977 Good Friday; 11 April 1977 Easter Monday; 13 and 14 September 1977 Id-El-Fitr; 30 September 1977 National Day; 20 and 21 November 1977 Id-El-Kabir; 25 and 26 December 1977 Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064.

Norway

Tax exemption on television picture tubes and channel selectors. The Norwegian Broadcasting Service has decided that television picture tubes and channel selectors shall be exempt from stamp duty with effect from 1 January 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Saudi Arabia

Ban on amaranth. According to ministerial decree FO 277/3150/57, amaranth has been banned since 15 June 1976. A copy of the decree has not yet been received and no further information is available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/420/7062.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Spain

Information on approval of containers. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 25 November, published circular 770 of the General Directorate of Customs, giving additional information for the only procedure for the approval of containers for the international transport of goods with customs seal.

The full text in Spanish is available from OTAR, an English translation is in preparation

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Tunisia

Suspension of import duties. The Tunisian *Official Journal*, 26 October, announced the suspension of customs duties on potato imports (CCCN 07-01A) on shipments of up to 2.221 metric tons.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

United States

Food labelling: cholesterol content. The *Federal Register*, 19 November 1976 published a rule amending the labelling of foods relating to fat, fatty acid and cholesterol contents when the food is used for dietary purposes. Comments should be sent by 18 January 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

The order became effective on 19 November 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Colour additives in drugs and cosmetics. The *Federal Register*, 19 November 1976 published the permanent listing of certain colours for use in externally applied drugs and cosmetics.

The colours specified are D and C Yellow No. 7, D and C Yellow No. 8, D and C Red No. 17, D and C Green No. 8, D and C Violet No. 2 and D and C Yellow No. 11.

Objections should be sent by 20 December 1976 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Failing proper objections the order becomes effective 20 December 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Copyright Act. A new copyright act became law on 19 October.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Revised definitions of wine. The *Federal Register* of 12 November 1976 published rules proposed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to amend the definition applying to 'appellation of origin' and other terms. Public hearings will be held from 13 December to 15 December inclusive in San Francisco and a further hearing on 11 January 1977 in Washington.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

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Frankfurt fair surpasses expectations

From R. Weatherburn, British consulate-general, Frankfurt

As far as British exhibitors were concerned the 36th Interstoff – held in Frankfurt from 23 to 26 November – got off to a very lively start. Shortly after the fair had opened the aisles began to fill with visitors and in no time at all the halls were bustling with activity – in the words of one British joint venture veteran, 'this is our best Interstoff ever; we have attained a level of business which, even to us, is incredibly high'.

For the first time at Interstoff firms from the host country, which normally form the largest national group at the fair, were equalled in number by a foreign group – the Italians; each had 164 exhibitors. Of the total number of direct exhibitors, 782 in all, the Italians of course formed by far the largest foreign contingent, followed by France with 145, Britain with 128 and Austria and Switzerland each with 34 firms.

According to statistics published by the fair organisers, by the time the fair closed, more than 23,000 trade buyers from 70 countries had passed through the turnstiles. Of these 14,000 were non-German. The majority of foreign buyers were from European countries with a particularly strong contingent from France. The main block of overseas buyers were from Japan, the United States and Canada – compared with last year's event the number of Japanese visitors was almost doubled. Buyers from Australia and the Middle East countries were also in evidence.

British participation was spearheaded by 95 firms grouped in two large joint ventures sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the National Wool Textile Corporation. The Pan-textile group comprising 56 firms, displayed a stunning range of colourful womenswear fabrics which attracted a steady flow of visitors. With the exception of exhibitors of denim and simulated fur – who experienced a very quiet fair – the majority of exhibitors in this group were very pleased with the results achieved, indeed in many cases expectations were easily surpassed. Apart from tartans which, irrespective of the general state of the textile industry, always do well at Interstoff, woollens and printed and plain wool challis did extremely well, and those firms showing jersey were encouraged by the response to their fabrics.

The menswear group was made up of 39 firms showing a very comprehensive range of fabrics from the cheaper worsteds and woollens right up to the very high quality fancy worsteds for which Huddersfield firms are so well known. Here too, the majority of exhibitors were very satisfied with the number of serious inquiries and orders received.

By the time the fair came to a close all except perhaps one or two exhibitors of top quality worsteds, who had had a somewhat quieter fair than usual, left for home feeling that this Interstoff had certainly been very successful.

British successes at Munich's 'Electronica'

From Peter Webster, BOTB, in Munich

Stories of British successes were told to the Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, when he and Jim Wilks, chief executive of the board, visited the British firms exhibiting at Electronica in Munich from 25 November to 1 December.

The consensus of opinion from the 53 firms in the board's joint venture was that this was the most successful Electronica yet. Ivan Lynd, of Lucas Ltd said 'At present, our exports are over £112 million a year and next year should exceed £150 million. Our participation in Electronica will make a significant contribution towards this. We are making a determined effort to see that 1977 is really a record year. This will be our contribution towards the national Export Year, in which Lucas are actively participating.'

Over half the British firms exhibited for the first time – and are already making plans for a return visit. The attitude of many of the newcomers was summed up by Mr B. G. Algar, managing director of Millitorr Engineering Ltd. 'This is our first time at Electronica and we shall certainly return for the next event. We clearly have a price edge over our continental competitors and because of this I am confident of a substantial increase in our exports in 1977.'

Today, West Germany is the second largest market in the world for electronic components and equipment and the British electronic industry is gaining a larger share of this premier market. At present exchange rates, British products have become increasingly competitive in the West German and other western European countries. The 1976 Electronica has shown decisively that Britain can sell advanced electronic products in the most sophisticated markets of the world.

British marine products in demand in spite of depressed market

From A. E. Hazebroek, British embassy, The Hague.

In spite of the depression being suffered by the shipbuilding and shipping industries, almost as many exhibitors as last year took

The Duke of Kent talks to Mr J. J. Clementson of ICI Mond at Electronica in Munich.

The British Hovercraft Corporation's Hoverlighter attracted considerable interest at Europort '76.

part in Europort '76 held in Amsterdam from 9 to 13 November. But, although no official figures had been released at the time of writing, there was no doubt that far fewer visitors passed through the gates than in 1975.

As usual specialised products and services from all sectors of the marine industry were on show, including a coverage of dredging and offshore activities which was the exhibition's sub-theme.

Participants came from 30 countries; there were joint ventures from Italy, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, Poland and the UK. The British stand comprised 11 firms, most of whom were quite satisfied with their presence at the event. Some did quite well not only because of the competitive prices these firms could quote but also because of the technical excellence of the products concerned.

One of the firms displaying pressure water cleaning equipment sold four machines off the stand and was asked to give demonstrations to a Dutch government department, several ship yachts, and salvage companies.

Considerable interest was also shown in a mooring-load monitoring system and there is a good chance of obtaining considerable orders in the Netherlands.

A builder of polyester fast launches and storage tanks received some promising inquiries, especially for the storage tanks, which could lead to export sales. Good inquiries from the Scandinavian countries, France and Belgium were received by a manufacturer of fire fighting equipment.

A hovercraft lighter especially developed by the British Hovercraft Corporation to relieve port congestions in the developing countries attracted considerable interest and would seem to offer solutions to problems which could otherwise be provided only in a much slower and more expensive way.

Considerable interest was encountered by a producer of harbour and airport tractors including inquiries from the Netherlands airforce and a large industrial company.

A producer of marine instruments looking for a local agent met several good prospects.

The encouragement the British firms received from the event has shown that even under the present difficult market conditions there is a demand for British products, and in some instances considerable export contracts may be in the offing.

The exhibition was officially opened by Mr D. F. Martin Jenkins, chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping in London.

As this was the fifteenth anniversary of Europort the organisers had arranged a ship design drawing contest under the title 'An ocean-going vessel round the year 2000'. The winners were announced during the opening ceremony.

The British ambassador to the Netherlands and the commercial counsellor visited the exhibition and the joint venture on the opening day.

In conjunction with the exhibition the Europort '76 international maritime conference was held at the RAI congress centre on 10 and 11 November. The main theme of the conference was 'Economic appraisal and market potential for ships', with a sub-theme of 'Cargo ships for trades in developing countries'. Papers were read by an international selection of maritime specialists including several from the UK.

British electrical products prominent at Singapore show

From David Smallman, British high commission, Singapore

Twenty British companies in a joint venture sponsored by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association (Beama) and the British Overseas Trade Board took part in the first specialist electrical and electronics equipment exhibition (Enex) in south-east Asia from 24 to 28 November.

Held in Singapore, Enex 76 was sponsored by the Singapore Electrical Traders Association and attracted exhibits from Europe, Australia, Japan, United States and Taiwan, as well as a number of Singapore's own manufacturing, engineering and service concerns.

Britain was the only country with a national stand. Having a prime site and a well-designed and executed stand scheme it stood out as the most significant in this exhibition. British exhibitors – whose products ranged from high-voltage switchgear and cables, through generators, motors and test equipment, to domestic wiring equipment and accessories, as well as electrical consumer goods – welcomed the opportunity to show their products in this growing market. Over 30,000 visitors kept them busy, especially those companies exhibiting domestic products who reported a high portion of genuine inquiries.

The general consensus of opinion within the Beama group was that participation in Enex had been a worth while exercise in presenting British electrical and electronic goods and equipment to a discerning public.

New agents appointed during Valencia fair

From Jose Garcia, British embassy, Madrid

British firms exhibiting at the Valencia international furniture fair, which was held from 15 to 21 November, sold furniture worth more than £130,000 during the first five days of the exhibition.

The fair was divided into several sectors including reproduction furniture, upholstered furniture, wood and timber, modern furniture, a sector devoted to foreign exhibitors, Spanish (or Castilian) furniture and decorative products. Exhibitors were grouped

Valencia furniture fair: over £130,000 taken on British stands.

together in their sectors.

The official British exhibit included an information stand run by British Furniture Manufacturers Exports Ltd.

Some 8,500 buyers as well as great number of businessmen visited this fair which constituted a success for British exhibitors. During the exhibition new agents or additional dealers and distributors were appointed by British companies.

Zürich fair introduces British firms to new markets

From W. Boenheim, British consulate-general, Zürich

Zürich was the venue for the fourth international sheet metal exhibition which was held at the Zuespa exhibition centre from 16 to 20 November 1976. A total of 82 firms from seven nations displayed in two halls a wide range of machinery, tools and supplies for the iron and metal plate and sheet using industries. About 8,000 visitors, mainly engineers, technically interested businessmen and fabricators of sheet metal who came from most countries in Europe and some overseas areas, including the Far East and the United States, visited the fair.

A total of 16 British manufacturers took part in a joint venture stand which was sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce with the support of the BOTB. Most of the British participants had not done much business on the continent, and about half the number of the 16 firms had neither exhibited nor sold anything in Europe before.

The exhibition was opened with a press conference by Kenneth Brooks of the organising firm, Mack-Brooks-Exhibitions Ltd, and Mr J. E. Reeve, consul general and director of trade promotion in Switzerland. Mr Reeve called on the British exhibitors for a discussion on marketing their equipment and supplies in Switzerland. All the joint venture exhibitors reported that great numbers of business executives from all over the world called at their stands, and some very valuable sales arrangements with firms in Germany, Austria, Scandinavia, Italy and France were made during the five-day show.

In addition, several pieces of equipment were sold during the fair which is quite exceptional at this type of exhibition. Sea Jay Machinery Ltd sold three units of their new Copycut sheet metal nibblers to firms in Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland and Joshua Bigwood and Son Ltd had the opportunity to sell one of their flow-turning lathes valued about £16,000 right off the stand. Another joint venture participant, Metform Engineering Ltd anticipated over £1 million business as a result of this exhibition.

The purpose of this technical exhibition – that of introducing British manufacturers to the Swiss and Continental markets – was achieved. Most British participants were encouraged by the results of this truly international trade fair and will certainly participate again at the next sheet metal exhibition in 1978.

Good business was done by British firms at the Zürich sheet metal fair.

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NB

The Dutch bought more than £3m per day worth of British goods in 1975
(only the U.S.A. and W. Germany bought more)

In 1976 trade with the Netherlands is already up by 17%

The Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce is urgently searching for British companies wishing to export to the Netherlands

Please send name/address of your company and list of products/ services to be exported, brochures and price lists to:

The Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce
307/308 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LS
London: 01-405 1358 Manchester: 061-834 5674

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Overseas trade export services

Trans-Sahara container route opened by Seevar

A new, weekly, west African/trans-Sahara transport service, is now available from the UK, Scandinavia and Europe. It is scheduled to provide a fast, regular and reliable route to Nigeria and has been developed by the freight division of Seevar Projects (UK) Ltd, together with leading international hauliers Ferrymasters Ltd.

The trailer-based unit load service to Kano, Nigeria, links up with the leading Algerian road haulage company, Société Nationale des Transports Routiers Algériens (SNTR), in Algiers to cover the 3,500km African leg of the route. Transit time is 15 days from the UK, Scandinavia and Europe to Nigeria, including eight or nine days from Algiers to Kano.

Seevar spent 10 months exploring the alternative routes available and determining the best administrative and operational procedures before contracting with SNTR and Ferrymasters as operators.

Seevar says that particular advantages of this major new service, offering highly competitive through-freight rates, include: no Nigerian port clearance certificate required; same-day trans-shipment and customs clearance of loads through Algiers; same-day customs clearance in Kano; through bills of lading; and favourable Lloyds insurance rates resulting from the excellent reputation of the operators concerned with this new trans-Sahara through-route linking Scandinavia and Europe with Nigeria.

Collection of loads, including consolidation, is offered through any one of the 27 Ferrymasters' depots located throughout the UK, Ireland, Scandinavia and western Europe. Already, loads have been shipped through from points as far apart as Gothenburg in Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Holland and France. Ferrymasters' recently-opened Gothenburg and Antwerp warehouses have proved especially useful in the consolidation of groupage traffic into full trailer loads.

Bell Lines begins major terminal development in France

Bell Lines, the short sea container shipping company, is to set up its own full scale container terminal in France at the mouth of the Seine. A brand new 115m quay built by the Port Autonome de Rouen at a cost of about £1 million has been placed at the company's disposal on a long-term lease. It is situated at Tancarville, 90km downstream from the main port of Rouen and 30km from Le Havre.

A £1 million order has just been placed by Bell Lines with Vickers and its French associates, Ateliers et Chantiers de Bretagne, for the installation of another special Bell-type Paceco wide-span automated gantry crane at Tancarville. A further £250,000 will be spent by Bell on other ground facilities, offices, etc. The schedule of building and installation should enable Tancarville to become operational within the comparatively short time of 14 months – by January 1978.

One of the high-performance engined tractors with special flexible sand-tyres fitted to both tractor and trailer used on the trans-Sahara Africa leg of the new Seevar container service.

New export finance service

Credit facilities for exporters are being offered by Blythe Greene Jourdain (Trading) Ltd as a new service for exporters.

The company will provide the necessary finance to overseas customers on a short medium-term basis and pay the exporter cash on shipment.

Blythe Greene Jourdain (Trading) Ltd will undertake all negotiations relating to the credit with, for instance, the Export Credits Guarantee Department and banks.

In the short-term (up to 180 days) credit available is 100 per cent of invoice value and in the medium-term (two to five years) the amount of credit will vary according to the terms of the sales contract but is normally about 80 per cent.

Blythe Greene Jourdain will consider any creditworthy buyer in any country where ECGD cover is available but the company says it is particularly strong in the Far East.

News of services for exporters

If your company has recently introduced a new service for exporters – in, for example, the packing, forwarding, shipping, airfreighting, banking or translation fields – we would be glad to have details, plus a good black and white photograph where appropriate.

Items for inclusion in our fortnightly 'Export Services' feature should be addressed to the Overseas Editor, 'Trade and Industry', Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Advertisers who wish to be associated with this feature should contact Colin Beadle at T. G. Scott's on 01-242 6264.

Cryoplant's separation column on the move.

Wynns move a long box

Hauliers Robert Wynn and Sons are moving a 97½ ft long, 14½ ft wide, 13 ft high air separation column cold box for Cryoplant Ltd of Edmonton.

The box, an integral part of plant producing 200 tons of oxygen per day, is on its way from the manufacturers to Indianapolis, by way of London docks and the port of New Orleans.

Wynns used two, three-axled Nicolas bogies powered by a Scammell Contractor tractor.

More trailer marshalling and maintenance facilities at Fleetwood complex

Pandoro, a member of P and O Unit Loads, is expanding further the Fleetwood ro/ro ferry terminal facilities, serving its Irish Sea integrated ferry and road transport services.

The development – scheduled for completion by mid-1977 – includes a new 42,000 sq ft maintenance complex for Pandoro's fleet of 1,800 trailers and 140 tractors, and an extension of the trailer marshalling area at Fleetwood from 12 to 15 acres.

British selling base established in Port Said

Offices and warehouses have been set up under the jurisdiction of Brown O'Malley International Ltd, Hull, in the free zone of Port Said to provide British manufacturers with a selling base where stocks of goods can be held.

The 3,000m³ complex is located in the port only 500 yards from the main discharging wharves. The company says the commercial climate is good and it has had excellent co-operation from the Egyptian authorities.

Pandair further expands Middle East operations

Further measures to support the recent extension of its operations in the Middle East have been carried out by Pandair, the UK's largest air freight forwarder.

For the first time, Pandair will be represented by a member of its own staff in the area and has created a new post, that of sales manager – Middle East, who will be based in Dubai.

Pandair is also increasing the frequency of its direct consolidations to both Dubai and Bahrain and in future the company will be operating three flights a week.

Dialling Athens

From 27 November, UK phone users with international subscriber dialling calling Athens and nearby towns should dial a new code.

The country code for Greece – 010 30 – is unaltered but the area code for Athens, Piraeus and the surrounding district changes from 21 to 1. Subscribers' numbers are unaffected.

Gelders operates new regular UK-US service

Gelders newest, regular service to and from the United States is to the industrial American Mid-West area. Gelders now operates a both-ways weekly groupage service between its Northampton depot and Chicago.

Using the standard Gelders collection/delivery enables any UK exporter to move his goods on a true door-to-door basis across the Atlantic within 21 days.

Gelders' use of the independent Northampton clearance depot's full customs facilities enables all documentation to be carried out at Northampton, rather than the UK port of arrival or despatch, which, the company says, may save anything up to 14 days for dockside customs clearance.

Gelders will handle all necessary documentation for UK to United States shipments.

Lunn Poly expands commercial travel division

Lunn Poly opened three new commercial travel operations in Luton, Newcastle and Manchester on 1 December. They will complement the existing offices in London and Coventry.

The three new offices will cater exclusively for the travel needs of business companies. The services provided will include a round-the-clock telephone service, available 24 hours a day every day of the year, an efficient system of ticket delivery by means of motorised messengers, passport and visa facilities, and a section dealing with executive holidays.

The Luton office, which will serve the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, will be situated in Cardiff Road. The catchment area of the Newcastle office corresponds with the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear and will be in Grainger Street. And, in Manchester, the new commercial travel operation will be based at Fountain Street.

New Tor Line agreement important for Immingham

In an important new development for the port of Immingham, Tor Line has announced that its terminal will be handling a new ro/ro service to the Middle East from this month.

According to Tor Line's UK managing director, Paul Insley, the company has concluded an agreement with Maritime Transport Overseas GmbH (MTO) to provide terminal and stevedoring services at Immingham for MTO's Scandinavia/UK/Germany/Iran ro-ro service, which has been operating for just over 12 months.

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotion Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate regional office for firms outside London and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and the south-east of England). The department in co-operation with commercial officers at embassies, high commissions and consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the commercial officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The department would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessman intending to travel overseas. To enable the overseas commercial officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible. The range of information required for this purpose includes details of the firm, their products/services and the purpose and background to the visit.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index / Series in / Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976			
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,347	−5,220	1,873
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,673	−3,204	1,531
1973 4th qtr	110	8,986	2,584	467	615	197	91	32	47	−395	−949	554
1974 1st qtr	106	8,853	2,594	510	591	−105	−21	18	−38	−822	−1,288	466
2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	562	321	197	43	19	−858	−1,355	497
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−763	−1,242	479
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−904	−1,335	431
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−452	−852	400
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−366	−681	315
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−561	−989	428
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−294	−682	388
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,866	2,448	402	460	22	31	23	12	−39	−473	434
2nd qtr.	108	8,789	2,375	408	474	−161	−115	−22	−55	−553	−1,040	487
3rd qtr.		8,850 pe		418 p	472 p		17 p	−6 p	22 p	−734	−1,214	480
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.3	+0.1	−3.0	+2.2	+1.1							
on a year earlier	−0.1	+0.1	−3.4	−4.0	−4.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis: at 1970 prices	
Base of index / £m in base year / Series in	1970	1970	1971	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970	1970
			15,895										7,907	7,932
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.8	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.3	108.1	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.0	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1974 3rd qtr.	108.4	109.9	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	105.0	105.8	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	105.9	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.8	3.1	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	100.1	100.4	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.4	99.5	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.3	100.0	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.5	101.5	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	131.6	124.0
2nd qtr.	102.0	103.1	106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	137.1	137.1
3rd qtr.	101.7	102.8	108.7	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7	132.8	137.2
1975 Nov.	100.7	100.5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.8	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.6	99.0	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.0	101.6	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	131.5	125.1
Feb.	101.9	101.4	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	127.0
Mar.	101.7	101.6	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	134.9	119.9
Apr.	102.0	102.8	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.8	134.0
May	104.0	105.7	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	138.2	139.7
June	100.1	100.7	106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	138.4	137.7
July	101.8	103.3	108.3	87	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	218.5	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.8	140.0
Aug.	100.8	101.9	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	218.6	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	132.1	131.4
Sept.	102.3	103.3	108.8	88	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	218.7	1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.6	140.1
Oct.			107.3	104	163.5	14.7	327.8	229.9 p	218.7 p	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p	140.1 p	142.7 p
Nov.							331.9	233.8 p						
% change latest 3 months														
on prev. 3 months	−0.4	−0.3	+1.6	+6.9	+3.2		+7.6	+4.5	+1.4	+3.5		+8.6	+½	−½
on a year earlier	+2.3	+3.3	+2.9	+1.3	+14.3		+29.5	+16.8	+17.3	+26.1		−0.8	+11	+10

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Survey of company liquidity: third quarter of 1976

The liquidity of the companies replying to the Department of Industry's survey of company liquidity rose in the third quarter of 1976, following a fall in the previous quarter. Tables 1 and 2 show that, on a seasonally adjusted basis, total current assets of these companies rose by £200 million and that their total current liabilities also rose, but by only £44 million, giving a rise in net current assets (total current assets minus total current liabilities) of £156 million, compared with a fall in the previous quarter of £261 million.

After seasonal adjustment and other adjustments to make the results comparable over the whole period of the survey, the net current assets of the survey companies and their liquidity ratio (defined here as total current assets as a percentage of total current liabilities) both rose in the third quarter of 1976, following a fall in the previous quarter and an otherwise unbroken rise since the beginning of 1975. The movements of the liquidity ratio, which is not influenced by inflation in that its numerator and denominator are both affected, suggest that at the end of 1974 the companies' liquidity had fallen to a level similar to that of early 1971, the previous time of great liquidity pressure. By the end of the first quarter of 1976 the liquidity ratio had recovered to a level similar to that of mid-1972, but was still appreciably lower than the levels in the first three quarters of 1973. The rise in the third quarter left the ratio at about the level reached at the end of the first quarter of 1976.

It must be kept in mind that both net current assets and the liquidity ratio, as defined in the survey, have serious limitations. They do not summarise the whole financial position of the companies, only the position on the selected current assets and liabilities covered by the survey, and companies differ widely in the types of assets and liabilities they hold.

Tables 1 and 2 show, on an unadjusted basis, that the survey companies' total current assets rose by £298 million in the third quarter of 1976 and that their total current liabilities fell by £15 million, giving a rise in net current assets of £313 million. As usual, these changes conceal widely differing movements for individual companies.

Manufacturing and non-manufacturing companies

The rise in net current assets in the third quarter of 1976 took place in both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing companies; the fall in the second quarter was concentrated in the non-manufacturing companies. Table 3 shows that, for the companies engaged mainly in manufacturing, total current assets rose by £191 million and total current liabilities fell by £2 million, giving a rise in net current assets of £193 million, following a rise in the previous quarter of £42 million. For the mainly non-manufacturing companies, the table shows that total current assets rose by £107 million and total current liabilities fell by £13 million, giving a rise in net current assets of £120 million, following a fall in the previous quarter of £185 million.

TABLE 1 Holdings of current assets and liabilities by survey companies (1): Amounts outstanding at end of period

£ million

	1974			1975					1976		
	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
Number of companies (2)	216	216	214	214	214	214	214	211	211	211	211
Not seasonally adjusted											
Current assets:											
Deposits with banks in the United Kingdom:											
Deposit banks/clearing banks (6)	535	535	537	540	633	615	670	1,903	703	691	821
Other banks (6)	911	936	936	1,095	989	1,265	1,238		1,299	1,254	1,378
Deposits with finance houses	81	64	64	59	78	77	97	97	105	105	112
Deposits with building societies	7	4	4	6	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Negotiable certificates of deposit (sterling and dollar)	133	109	109	97	107	75	97	97	91	95	108
British government securities	87	83	83	86	155	149	175	175	216	255	257
Local authority bills and temporary money	235	173	173	159	165	190	195	195	164	186	177
Local authority mortgages and loans	53	54	54	58	50	48	53	53	51	40	44
Other current assets (3)	29	26	26	20	27	84	118	118	115	105	131
Total current assets (4)	2,069	1,982	1,984	2,121	2,209	2,506	2,647	2,642	2,745	2,734	3,032
Current liabilities:											
Advances and loans from banks and other financial institutions in the United Kingdom:											
Deposit banks/clearing banks (5) (6)	2,235	2,290	2,154	2,186	1,904	1,647	1,596	3,253	1,513	1,774	1,653
Other banks (5) (6)	1,889	2,050	1,766	1,865	1,833	1,818	1,666		1,687	1,564	1,667
Other financial institutions (7)	105	109	109	93	95	119	118	121	120	114	117
Total current liabilities (4)	4,229	4,449	4,029	4,143	3,831	3,584	3,380	3,374	3,320	3,452	3,437
Net current assets	−2,160	−2,467	−2,045	−2,022	−1,622	−1,078	−733	−732	−575	−718	−405
Liquidity ratio (per cent) (8)	49	45	49	51	58	70	78	78	83	79	88
Seasonally adjusted											
Total current assets	2,040	1,930	1,932	2,195	2,240	2,464	2,595	2,590	2 833	2,770	2,970
Total current liabilities	4,280	4,572	4,153	4.038	3,828	3,649	3,504	3,498	3,230	3,428	3,472
Net current assets	−2,240	−2,642	−2,221	−1,843	−1,588	−1,185	−909	−908	−397	−658	−502
Liquidity ratio (per cent) (8)	48	42	47	54	59	68	74	74	88	81	86

Notes:

(1) Companies in the Department of Industry's survey of company liquidity.

(2) The figures are for the number of companies that completed returns for the preceding fourth quarter. Estimates are included until the end of the next fourth quarter for any of these companies that ceased to reply during the year. There is a break in coverage at the end of 1974 and 1975. The two sets of figures given for the fourth quarters show the effect of losing some companies and, in addition, the effect of the change described in note 5.

(3) Other current assets comprise holdings of notes and coin, Treasury bills, certificates of tax deposit and tax deposit accounts.

(4) Components are rounded independently of the totals.

(5) From the first quarter of 1975, including only advances and loans with an initial loan term of not more than twelve months. The two sets of figures for the fourth quarter of 1974 show the effect of this change in addition to the effect of losing two companies at the end of 1974.

(6) To the end of 1975, the figures relate to the former groupings of deposit banks and other banks; from the first quarter of 1976, five banks that were deposit banks have been re-grouped as other banks and the remainder renamed clearing banks. Combined figures are given in the second set of figures for the fourth quarter of 1975 to avoid any possibility of disclosure of holdings by individual companies.

(7) Including only advances and loans with an initial loan term of not more than twelve months.

(8) Total current assets as a percentage of total current liabilities.

Since the beginning of 1975, net current assets of the manufacturing companies have been generally rising, whereas net current assets of the non-manufacturing companies have remained fairly level. Total current assets of the manufacturing companies have been rising steadily since the end of 1974 while their total current liabilities fell steadily from early 1975 until the first quarter of 1976, followed by a rise in the second quarter and another slight fall in the third. For the non-manufacturing companies, total current assets have remained fairly level since mid-1974 while total current liabilities have remained fairly level since early 1975. For both types of company, the level of total current liabilities since the beginning of 1975 may have been affected by possible switching from short term to longer term borrowing, which, as mentioned in the notes at the end of this article, has not been included in the survey since the beginning of 1975.

TABLE 2 Changes in holdings of current assets and liabilities of survey companies (1)

£ million

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1974 4th qtr.	1975 1st qtr.	1975 2nd qtr.	1975 3rd qtr.	1975 4th qtr.	1976 1st qtr.	1976 2nd qtr.	1976 3rd qtr.
Not seasonally adjusted														
Current assets:														
Deposits with banks in the United Kingdom:														
Deposit banks/clearing banks (6)	2	49	117	173	73	133	—	3	93	−18	55	99	−12	130
Other banks (6)	−40	91	240	258	21	302	25	159	−106	276	−27		−45	124
Deposits with finance houses	19	52	−21	−17	−101	33	−17	−5	19	−1	20	8	—	7
Deposits with building societies	—	2	−2	3	−1	−1	−3	2	−2	−1	—	—	—	—
Negotiable certificates of deposit (sterling and dollar)	−1	121	231	−47	−144	−12	−24	−12	10	−32	22	−6	4	13
British government securities	−22	−13	16	39	−39	92	−4	3	69	−6	26	41	39	2
Local authority bills and temporary money	−32	61	55	121	−120	22	−62	−14	6	25	5	−31	22	−9
Local authority mortgages and loans	−14	—	14	−10	15	−1	1	4	−8	−2	5	−2	−11	4
Other current assets (9)	6	−1	−4	−23	7	92	−3	−6	7	57	34	−3	−10	26
Total current assets (4)	−82	362	645	495	−291	663	−87	137	88	297	141	103	−11	298
Current liabilities:														
Advances and loans from banks and other financial institutions in the United Kingdom:														
Deposit banks/clearing banks (5) (6)	64	−246	162	611	765	−558	55	32	−282	−257	−51	−53	261	−121
Other banks (5) (6)	247	115	20	306	913	−100	161	99	−32	−15	−152		−123	103
Other financial institutions (7)	60	−21	27	9	30	9	4	−16	2	24	−1	−1	−6	3
Total current liabilities (4)	371	−153	209	924	1,708	−649	220	114	−312	−247	−204	−54	132	−15
Net current assets	−453	515	436	−429	−1,999	1,312	−307	23	400	544	345	157	−143	313
Seasonally adjusted														
Total current assets							−110	263	45	224	131	243	−63	200
Total current liabilities							292	−115	−210	−179	−145	−269	198	44
Net current assets							−402	378	255	403	276	512	−261	156

Notes: (1) and (4) to (7): see Table 1. (9) For 1970 to 1973, includes tax reserve certificates in addition to the assets listed in note 3 to Table 1.

TABLE 3 Holdings of current assets and liabilities by manufacturing and non-manufacturing survey companies (1): Amounts outstanding at end of period

£ million

	1974 3rd qtr.	1974 4th qtr.	1975 4th qtr.	1975 1st qtr.	1975 2nd qtr.	1975 3rd qtr.	1975 4th qtr.	1976 4th qtr.	1976 1st qtr.	1976 2nd qtr.	1976 3rd qtr.
MANUFACTURING COMPANIES											
Number of companies (2)	147	147	145	145	145	145	145	143	143	143	143
Total current assets (4)	798	749	748	827	1,015	1,142	1,264	1,260	1,374	1,517	1,708
Total current liabilities (4)	2,758	2,905	2,726	2,758	2,513	2,256	2,059	2,053	1,959	2,060	2,058
Net current assets	−1,960	−2,156	−1,978	−1,931	−1,498	−1,114	−795	−793	−585	−543	−350
Liquidity ratio (per cent) (8)	29	26	27	30	40	51	61	61	70	74	83
NON-MANUFACTURING COMPANIES											
Number of companies (2)	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	68	68	68	68
Total current assets (4)	1,271	1,233	1,236	1,294	1,193	1,364	1,382	1,382	1,371	1,217	1,324
Total current liabilities (4)	1,471	1,544	1,303	1,385	1,318	1,328	1,321	1,321	1,361	1,392	1,379
Net current assets	−200	−311	−67	−91	−125	36	61	61	10	−175	−55
Liquidity ratio (per cent) (8)	86	80	95	93	91	103	105	105	101	87	96

Notes: See notes (1), (2), (4) and (8) to Table 1.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1976, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

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Changes in the composition of holdings

The increase in current assets in the third quarter of 1976 came mainly in deposits with banks, more than offsetting the substantial fall in these deposits in the previous quarter. Deposits with clearing banks rose by £130 million and deposits with other banks by £124 million; the rise in total deposits with banks of £254 million was, apart from the rise of £258 million in the third quarter of 1975, the largest since the start of the series at the beginning of 1970. Other current assets, comprising notes and coin, Treasury bills, certificates of tax deposit and tax deposit accounts, rose by £26 million, following a fall of £10 million in the previous quarter, and holdings of negotiable certificates of deposit also rose, by £13 million, following a smaller rise in the previous quarter. Other changes in holdings of current assets were small.

The fall in current liabilities in the third quarter of 1976 was more than accounted for by a fall of £121 million in borrowing from clearing banks. Borrowing from other banks increased by £103 million, with little change in borrowing from other financial institutions. At the end of the quarter, borrowing from clearing banks and from other banks each accounted for about 48 per cent of the companies' total current liabilities.

Notes

Over 200 of the largest United Kingdom industrial and commercial companies contribute to this survey, which covers certain assets and liabilities in the United Kingdom that can be realised or that are due to be paid, formally at least, within 12 months. An article describing the background to the survey, and reviewing the results since its start at the beginning of 1970, was published in *Economic Trends* for November 1974.

The companies taking part are not a representative sample of industrial and commercial companies. Not all large companies are included and no small ones.

Another important limitation is that the results can give only part of the complete financial picture that would be given by the full sources and uses of funds account. This applies, in particular, to the two summary measures of liquidity, net current assets and the liquidity ratio, as the article in *Economic Trends* explains. Furthermore, these measures, and the results as a whole, are aggregates for the survey group and they mask wide variation in the financial positions of individual companies.

During the survey some companies have ceased to reply. The results are therefore based on a different number of companies each quarter. In the tables with this article, estimates are included until the end of the year for holdings of companies that ceased to reply during the year, except for companies that ceased to reply because they had amalgamated with other companies in the survey. Two sets of figures are given for the fourth quarters of 1974 and 1975 to show the effect of losing some companies during the year.

The two sets of figures given for the fourth quarter of 1974 also embody an additional change. At the beginning of 1975, the definition of current liabilities was clarified and companies were asked to exclude all advances and loans with an initial loan term of over 12 months.

At the beginning of 1976, five banks that were deposit banks were re-grouped with other banks and the remainder of the group has been renamed clearing banks to conform with the reclassification of banks made by the Bank of England in 1975. Total figures for deposits with banks and borrowing from banks are given in the second set of figures for the fourth quarter of 1975 to avoid any possibility of disclosure of individual company holdings as a result of this change.

Inquiries concerning this article should be addressed to: Home Financial Statistics (Room 142), Economics and Statistics Division 6a, Departments of Trade, Industry and Prices and Consumer Protection, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel 01-215 5538)

The reserves in November

The UK official reserves rose by $453 million during November following accruals of foreign currency borrowing by the public sector under the exchange cover scheme of $604 million. At the end of November they stood at $5,156 million.

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Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries

In the three months ended August 1976, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been 2 per cent higher than in the preceding three months while net new orders were 1 per cent lower. Orders-on-hand at the end of August 1976 were 1 per cent lower than the end-May 1976 level. (These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
	December 1969 = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	
1968	107		100		97	
1969	100		97		97	
1970	103		102		100	
1971	119		108		104	
1972	125		110		109	
1973	155		123		117	
1974	145		115		114	
1975	142		118		115	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	164	161	111	115	107	108
2nd quarter	171	149	122	113	113	115
3rd quarter	137	143	96	113	115	117
4th quarter	145	145	129	118	122	118
1975 1st quarter	135	139	116	124	116	121
2nd quarter	165	151	133	119	114	112
3rd quarter	129	141	97	114	114	115
4th quarter	142	149	128	117	116	112
1976 1st quarter	126	130	109	113	113	114
2nd quarter p	154	140	131	120	110	113
1974 April	171	163	133	122	115	114
May	182	155	134	109	108	113
June	171	149	100	107	117	118
July	156	149	85	113	112	116
August	143	143	86	112	105	118
September	137	143	116	114	129	116
October	142	140	150	115	141	120
November	152	141	153	122	130	118
December	145	145	85	116	98	115
1975 January	138	137	101	119	103	124
February	134	136	121	123	125	122
March	135	139	124	129	120	119
April	148	147	135	112	118	107
May	167	149	147	120	109	115
June	165	151	116	125	114	115
July	145	145	84	112	110	114
August	132	139	84	109	103	117
September	129	141	123	122	128	115
October	135	140	154	118	135	115
November	144	140	138	110	121	110
December	142	149	91	123	92	111
1976 January	129	128	94	111	102	123
February	128	130	115	117	116	113
March	126	130	117	111	119	107
April p	137	136	133	121	109	108
May p	157	140	155	127	116	123
June p	154	140	104	113	107	108
July p	143	143	99	133	114	118
August p	132	139	85	110	105	119

Inquiries: 01-212 0116.

Production in the cotton industry

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in the period January to September 1976 the amount of cloth woven was 3 per cent less than in January to September 1975. Production of single yarn increased by 9 per cent and doubled yarn increased by 2 per cent.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

	Single yarn (†)		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
	Cotton yarn (‡)	Spun man-made yarns and mixture yarn, inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
	million kg.				million metres	
1968	171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969	166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970	158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971	133.0	83.3	85.0		559.1	479.8
1972	121.4	81.7	75.4		513.0	469.8
1973	115.4	92.5	82.1		453.2	502.3
1974	101.3	87.7	74.7		409.5	505.3
1975	94.4	76.4	68.4		405.4	503.0
1975 January*	1.8	1.5	1.4		8.2	9.7
February	1.9	1.6	1.5		8.8	10.7
March	1.7	1.3	1.3		8.3	9.7
April*	1.8	1.6	1.2		7.7	9.4
May	2.1	1.7	1.5		8.1	10.0
June	1.7	1.6	1.3		8.7	10.1
July*	1.5	1.1	1.1		5.4	7.2
August	1.9	1.5	1.3		8.0	9.4
September	1.4	1.0	1.1		6.4	8.8
October*	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.5	10.9
November	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.7	10.9
December*	1.5	1.2	1.0		5.7	7.8
1976 January	2.3	1.5	1.4		8.6	11.0
February	2.2	1.4	1.4		8.3	10.8
March*	2.3	1.5	1.4		8.3	10.5
April	1.9	1.4	1.2		6.6	8.7
May	2.4	1.7	1.5		8.0	10.5
June*	1.7	1.3	1.1		7.0	8.7
July	1.8	1.3	1.2		4.3	6.8
August	2.1	1.6	1.4		7.3	9.0
September*	1.8	1.3	1.2		6.4	8.7

(†) Spun in the cotton industry. (‡) Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarn of cotton and cotton waste. * Average of five weeks.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

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Output in the wool textile industry

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally adjusted index of production) in September 1976 was 10 per cent less than in September 1975. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the period January-September 1976 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 8 per cent lower than in January-September 1975; deliveries of worsted yarns (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 7 per cent higher. Production of wool and hair tops was 21 per cent more and that of man-made fibre tops was 1 per cent less.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn (†)	Worsted yarn (§)	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) (‡)		Blankets (†)
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kilos					million sq. metres		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1975	110.6	46.8	44.4	112.1	75.5	76.8	74.6	24.7
1975 1st quarter	27.3	11.2	12.8	29.4	20.4	17.7	20.7	7.6
2nd quarter	29.1	11.9	12.7	29.7	19.4	22.5	19.2	5.0
3rd quarter	25.5	11.4	9.2	24.6	15.7	19.8	17.1	5.7
4th quarter	28.7	12.3	9.6	28.4	19.9	16.8	17.6	6.4
1976 1st quarter	31.0	13.8	11.6	29.4	20.6	16.9	18.2	6.5
2nd quarter	30.5	14.5	12.1	27.9	20.3	19.6	16.9	4.4
3rd quarter		13.4	10.6	23.7	18.2	19.4	16.9	5.2
1975 April	9.6	4.1	4.5	9.6	6.9	7.0	6.5	1.8
May	9.3	3.5	3.7	9.9	6.0	7.2	6.3	1.7
June	10.2	4.3	4.5	10.0	6.4	8.2	6.4	1.6
July	9.0	4.5	3.8	8.0	5.1	6.7	6.4	1.9
August	7.0	2.7	2.2	7.5	4.7	5.9	4.5	1.7
September	9.5	4.2	3.2	9.1	5.9	7.2	6.2	2.1
October	9.7	4.0	3.6	9.9	7.2	6.6	6.4	2.1
November	9.7	4.3	3.6	9.2	6.5	5.4	5.7	1.9
December	9.3	4.0	2.4	9.3	6.2	4.8	5.5	2.4
1976 January	10.0	4.5	4.3	9.5	6.4	5.1	5.8	2.6
February	9.6	4.2	3.2	9.2	6.6	5.3	5.9	1.9
March	11.4	5.1	4.1	10.7	7.6	6.5	6.5	2.0
April	10.4	5.0	3.9	9.5	7.0	5.7	5.5	1.5
May	10.2	4.8	4.6	9.3	7.0	7.0	5.6	1.4
June	9.9	4.7	3.6	9.1	6.3	6.9	5.8	1.5
July	8.7	4.6	3.8	7.1	5.9	6.1	5.6	1.5
August		3.5	2.8	7.7	5.3	6.0	4.6	1.7
September		5.3	4.0	8.9	7.0	7.3	6.7	2.0

(†) Estimated. (‡) Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components. (§) From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the woollen and worsted yarn headings. In September deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.8 million kilos.

Exports of wool textile products

	Total	Wool tops (a)		Yarns		Woven fabrics (‡)		Other wool textile products (†)
	£m	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn sq. m	£m
1968	114.80	23.94	25.44	20.44	14.34	66.14	69.42	4.28
1969	125.41	26.55	26.01	23.32	16.08	71.08	69.46	4.45
1970	117.25	20.38	21.08	23.37	15.85	70.00	62.51	3.50
1971	106.82	16.28	18.66	23.28	15.88	62.57	54.30	4.70
1972	118.49	19.80	20.51	27.28	18.13	66.48	56.32	4.93
1973	172.32	38.06	21.36	36.95	18.28	91.08	60.39	6.24
1974	180.44	26.15	16.15	41.56	15.56	105.84	52.80	6.89
1975	165.22	28.53	16.19	37.42	13.83	92.08	43.33	7.20
1974 1st quarter	45.05	8.55	..	10.47	4.20	24.44	13.50	1.58
2nd quarter	51.23	7.82	..	12.08	4.52	29.52	14.63	1.81
3rd quarter	42.27	4.86	..	9.56	3.43	26.23	12.84	1.62
4th quarter	41.90	4.92	..	9.45	3.41	25.66	11.84	1.88
1975 1st quarter	36.93	5.19	4.04	8.33	3.07	21.79	10.43	1.62
2nd quarter	42.17	6.97	3.30	9.36	3.54	24.27	10.77	1.57
3rd quarter	41.80	7.98	4.47	8.66	3.17	23.76	11.86	1.40
4th quarter	44.32	8.39	4.38	11.07	4.05	22.26	10.27	2.61
1976 1st quarter	43.48	10.96	5.06	11.13	4.04	19.52	9.30	1.87
2nd quarter	56.27	13.35	5.34	13.70	4.36	27.41	11.65	1.82
3rd quarter	55.38	11.64	4.42	13.57	3.98	28.22	12.21	1.95

(†) Wool or other animal hair, carded or combed; felts, wholly or partly of wool; blankets: travelling rugs; woollen and worsted felts; and other made-up textile articles, not individually specified in the Export List, of sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair.
Other commodities of, or containing, wool or animal hair not included in the above table; sheeps' or lambs' wool and fine or coarse animal hair not carded or combed; noils, rags and other waste; carpets; garments; smallwares; knitted or crocheted fabrics; woven fabrics predominantly of man-made fibres containing sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair.
(‡) Excluding mechanical cloths from January 1970.
(a) From the 1st quarter 1976 figures are not strictly comparable with previous periods.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Retail sales in October

Volume

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in October is 107.3 (1971 = 100), in line with the provisional estimate of 107½.

The estimate indicates some fall in trade from the broadly unchanged levels in the months of the third quarter. In the three months August to October, the volume of sales was 1½ per cent higher than in the previous three months. However, the average level of trade in the first 10 months of 1976 was slightly below the annual average for 1975.

For the main components of total trade, sales by durable goods shops in the August to October period were 5 per cent higher than in the previous three months. Sales by clothing and footwear shops and by 'other non-food' shops, which include department stores and mail-order businesses, each rose by 2 per cent. Sales by food shops, however, fell marginally between these periods.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in October was 16 per cent higher than in October 1975. In the first 10 months of 1976, the average value of sales was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

Inquiries 01-215 3705.

TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973	110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1974	109.9	101.8	115.9	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	114.2	108	121	115
1974 1st quarter	109.6	100.2	116.4	107	122	119
2nd quarter	107.8	101.1	112.6	104	118	115
3rd quarter	111.2	103.0	117.2	110	125	118
4th quarter	111.3	102.8	117.5	107	128	119
1975 1st quarter	111.3	101.1	118.6	111	129	118
2nd quarter	108.9	98.6	116.3	108	130	116
3rd quarter	105.5	97.9	111.0	108	111	112
4th quarter	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
1976 1st quarter	107.3	99.5	113.1	108	118	114
2nd quarter	106.7	99.3	112.1	106	121	112
3rd quarter	108.7	98.8	115.8	109	127	115
1975 August	104.8	97.5	110.2	109	113	110
September*	106.1	98.6	111.6	106	112	114
October	104.8	98.5	109.3	106	108	111
November	105.2	99.6	109.3	102	111	112
December*	107.0	100.1	112.1	107	117	113
1976 January	109.8	100.1	116.9	110	125	117
February	107.1	99.5	112.6	107	121	112
March*	105.5	98.9	110.4	106	112	112
April	108.5	101.4	113.6	106	128	112
May	105.7	98.3	111.1	105	117	112
June*	106.1	98.4	111.8	107	119	111
July	108.3	99.5	114.7	107	127	114
August	108.9	99.5	115.8	109	128	115
September*	108.8	97.7	116.8	111	127	116
October	107.3	97.7	114.3	106	126	114
1976 May-July	106.7	98.7	112.5	107	121	112
Aug.-Oct.	108.4	98.3	115.7	109	127	115
Percentage increase	1.6	−0.4	2.8	2	5	2

TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973	126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1974	146.7	144.5	148.2	149	143	150
1975	174.5	174.6	174.4	172	166	178
1974 1st quarter	136.6	134.6	138.1	139	134	139
2nd quarter	141.0	139.9	141.7	142	136	144
3rd quarter	150.9	147.9	153.1	157	147	154
4th quarter	158.2	155.7	160.0	159	155	162
1975 1st quarter	165.8	162.5	168.2	170	162	169
2nd quarter	173.7	172.3	174.8	168	177	177
3rd quarter	177.0	178.7	175.7	175	161	181
4th quarter	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
1976 1st quarter	190.2	192.9	188.3	183	176	195
2nd quarter	193.9	199.2	190.0	184	179	197
3rd quarter	203.8	207.6	200.9	195	189	208
1975 August	175.8	178.3	174.0	176	160	178
September*	179.2	180.9	177.9	173	162	186
October	177.8	181.0	175.5	173	158	183
November	180.8	185.9	177.1	168	165	186
December*	186.4	190.2	183.8	178	173	190
1976 January	193.2	191.5	194.4	185	185	202
February	189.6	193.7	186.7	182	179	192
March*	188.3	193.3	184.7	182	166	192
April	195.3	200.9	191.3	183	187	196
May	192.1	197.4	188.3	180	175	196
June*	194.2	199.4	190.4	188	175	197
July	199.9	204.0	196.9	189	189	203
August	204.3	208.9	200.9	194	189	208
September*	206.4	209.5	204.2	200	190	211
October	206.3	212.3	202.8	194	193	210
1976 May-July	195.3	200.2	191.8	186	179	199
Aug.-Oct.	205.9	210.2	202.8	196	191	210
Percentage increase	5.4	5.0	5.7	6	6	6

The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The October 1976 sales period was the four weeks from 3 October 1976 to 30 October 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was the four weeks from 5 October 1975 to 1 November 1975.

(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. (See Technical Note in *Trade and Industry* of 14 March 1975.)

The press notice giving the *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for November and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

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Hire-purchase and other instalment credit business in October

Retailers and finance houses advanced £309 million in new instalment credit agreements in October (seasonally adjusted). Retailers advanced £181 million of this total and finance houses £128 million. In the latest three months August-October lending by retailers was 10 per cent higher than in the previous three months; finance houses' lending increased by 3 per cent between these two periods.

The average weekly value of retailers' instalment credit sales was a little lower in October than in September. In the latest three months average sales were 11 per cent more than in the preceding three months. Within this total, durable goods shops' sales increased by 5 per cent on average and department stores' and other instalment credit retailers' sales (including sales by mail-order houses) increased by 13 per cent.

Debt outstanding to retailers and finance houses on all instalment credit agreements continued to increase in October bringing the total increase in the August-October period to £108 million compared with £81 million in the May-July period. The debt outstanding to retailers increased by a greater amount in the later period than in the earlier one: £49 million in August-October compared with £14 million in May-July. Debt to finance houses increased by £59 million in August-October following an increase of £67 million in May-July. At the end of October the total amount outstanding to finance houses and retailers was £2,519 million (*not* seasonally adjusted), 11 per cent more than a year earlier.

Inquiries: 01-215 3162.

TABLE 1 Hire-purchase and other instalment credit business seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total		Finance houses†		Retailers‡	
	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt
1971	2,053	240	990	165	1,063	75
1972	2,497	424	1,222	296	1,275	128
1973	2,871	438	1,453	332	1,418	106
1974	2,517	−155	1,037	−160	1,480	5
1975	2,987	−10	1,201	−55	1,786	45
1974 3rd quarter	651	−22	269	−32	382	10
4th quarter	678	−24	277	−33	401	9
1975 1st quarter	711	−9	286	−11	425	2
2nd quarter	759	14	309	−11	450	25
3rd quarter	748	−5	303	−17	445	12
4th quarter	769	−10	303	−16	466	6
1976 1st quarter	838	35	343	2	495	33
2nd quarter	873	76	385	59	488	17
3rd quarter	913	103	392	60	521	43
1976 January	282	13	111	−8	171	21
February	276	13	111	2	165	11
March	280	9	121	8	159	1
April	291	25	127	16	164	9
May	291	25	126	24	165	1
June	291	26	132	19	159	7
July	290	30	126	24	164	6
August	304	38	129	19	175	19
September	319	35	137	17	182	18
October	309	35	128	23	181	12
1976 May-Jul	872	81	384	67	488	14
Aug-Oct	932	108	394	59	538	49
Percentage increase	7		3		10	
Debt outstanding at 31 December 1975 (unadjusted)	—	2,320	—	1,423	—	897

† Direct business only: ie excluding agreements block discounted with finance houses by retailers.

‡ Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers.' For further definitions see footnote to Table 2.

TABLE 2 Retailers' instalment credit sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1966 = 100

	Total†	Durable goods shops	Department stores	Other instalment credit retailers‡
HP and other instalment credit sales in 1966§				
£ million	(862)	(327)	(46)	(489)
1971	134	138	138	131
1972	158	162	157	155
1973	176	165	181	183
1974	184	132	193	217
1975	217	161	231	254
1974 3rd quarter	190	138	207	223
4th quarter	199	148	213	231
1975 1st quarter	207	153	228	241
2nd quarter	220	174	223	250
3rd quarter	217	157	229	257
4th quarter	226	163	242	267
1976 1st quarter	240	189	262	272
2nd quarter	238	187	226	273
3rd quarter	256	196	258	295
1976 January	250	204	270	278
February	240	187	257	274
March*	232	180	260	265
April	240	188	200	279
May	241	185	229	280
June*	233	187	246	263
July	240	196	239	270
August	256	194	241	300
September*	267	198	286	312
October	264	204	281	304
1976 May-Jul av.	238	189	239	270
Aug-Oct av.	263	198	271	306
Percentage increase	11	5	13	13

† Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'.

‡ General stores (other than department stores), general mail order houses and co-operative societies' non-durable goods departments.

§ Excluding sales against checks issued by other organisations.

The monthly periods for retailers consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The period covered by October 1976 sales was the four weeks from 3 October 1976 to 30 October 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was from 5 October 1975 to 1 November 1975.

Wholesale price indices in November

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1¼ per cent in November to 233.8 (1970 = 100).

November's rise of 2 per cent in the price index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco was the same as for January 1976, which had been the largest increase since April 1975. Higher prices for petroleum products and vehicles accounted for half of the increase.

The price index for manufactured food rose by 1½ per cent in November following an average monthly increase of 2¼ per cent in the previous three months. Price increases for animal and poultry foods made the most significant contribution.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period rose again, from 16¼ per cent on revised figures for October to 17⅛ per cent in November.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 1¼ per cent to 331.9.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry

other than the food, drink and tobacco industries rose by only ½ per cent in November. Because of the steady improvement in the exchange rate of sterling, there was little difference in the average rate of exchange of sterling in November compared with October. Higher prices for imported softwood and plywood and nickel make the most significant contributions and were partly offset by price falls for imported steel. Price increases for imported materials, particularly wheat, coffee, cocoa beans and cocoa butter, oils, oilseeds and oilcake and dried fruit were mainly responsible for the increase of 3¼ per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries.

	September	October p	1970 = 100 November p
Output prices (home sales)			
All manufacturing products	226.3	229.9	233.8
Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	233.6	236.9	241.5
Products of the food manufacturing industries	240.7	248.4	252.3
Prices of materials and fuel purchased			
By manufacturing industry	314.4	327.8	331.9
materials	323.0	337.7	341.8
coal, gas and electricity	232.0	233.3	236.6
By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	334.3	348.5	350.8
materials	348.9	364.9	367.0
By food manufacturing industries	268.9	280.2	289.1
materials	269.5	281.2	290.1

p = provisional

Inquiries: 01-215 3157.
The full article will be published in a later issue.

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Cinema admissions and takings in September

During September, counted as a five week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.16 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.64 million. The comparable figures for September 1975 were 2.30 million and £1.56 million.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 3 December 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Satan's Slave	BR/E 38887/5/12/81	86	1 December	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd	Monumental Pictures Ltd, London
Review No 4 – 30th Year	BR/E 38889/5/12/81	10	3 December	Data Film Distributors Ltd	National Coal Board, London
Movietone News 2478	BR/E 38644/5/12/81	8	3 December	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
I Am Shameless	EC/38885/5/12/81	62	29 November	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	Films ABC, Paris
Wild Game (Wild Wechsel)	EC/38884/5/12/81	99	1 December	Contemporary Films Ltd	Intertel Fernseh GmbH, Berlin
Black Emanuelle 2 Goes East	EC/38891/5/12/81	88	3 December	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd	Kristal Film, Italy
			FOREIGN		
I Will I Will . . . For Now	F/38886	103	30 November	Scotia-Barber Distributors Ltd	Brut Productions Inc, New York
Erotic Odyssey	F/38888	77	2 December	Amanda Films Ltd	Trans Continental Film Corporation, Zurich
Stranger From Canton	F/38890	86	3 December	London International Film Distributors Ltd	Yangtze Productions Ltd, Hong Kong

CORRECTION TO THE REGISTER
The registration number of the film 'Radio One On the Road', registered on 14 October 1976, has been corrected to BR/E 38796/17/10/81.
The films listed in *Trade and Industry* of 19 November, page 565, were registered during the week ended 12 November and not 5 November as stated.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (A)	16 July 1976
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	19 Nov. 1976
trends in invisible transactions	22 Oct. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 May 1976
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
By regions	19 Nov. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	1 Oct. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	12 Nov. 1976
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	This week
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	3 Dec. 1976
N. Ireland (M)	19 Nov. 1976
rate of return on capital (A)	8 Oct. 1976
Construction work overseas (A)	15 Oct. 1976
EEC economic indicators	This week
Energy trends (M)	3 Dec. 1976
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	19 Nov. 1976
cinema admissions and takings (M)	This week
overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	27 Aug. 1976
household consumption (Q)	8 Oct. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	26 Nov. 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	5 Nov. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	This week
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	26 Nov. 1976
N. Ireland index	21 Nov. 1975
Scotland	26 Nov. 1976
Wales	8 Oct. 1976
Insolvencies (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	8 Oct. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	25 June 1976
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
production (M)	3 Dec. 1976
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
Metal-working machine tools (M)	3 Dec. 1976
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	3 Dec. 1976
estimated figures (M)	19 Nov. 1976
motor trade turnover (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Office development permits (Q)	26 Nov. 1976
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	16 July 1976
analysis of trends (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
ten-year back run (A)	12 Mar. 1976
export prospects (Q)	10 Sept. 1976
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Regional development grants (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	5 Nov. 1976
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Research and development expenditure	26 Nov. 1976
Retail prices index (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	This week
provisional figures (M)	22 Oct. 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	26 Nov. 1976
stocks (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	25 June 1976
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	9 July 1976
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	3 Dec. 1976
retail (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
carpet sales (M)	26 Nov. 1976
cotton industry production (M)	This week
hosiery production (M)	5 Nov. 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	This week
wholesale houses' sales (M)	26 Nov. 1976
wool exports (Q)	This week
wool output (M)	This week
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	17 Sept. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	12 Nov. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	This week

Departmental organisations etc.

British commercial representation overseas	8 Oct. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	1 Oct. 1976
ECGD local offices	This week
Guide to departments	3 Dec. 1976
Official Receivers' offices	15 Oct. 1976
Programme of trade promotions	26 Nov. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	26 Nov. 1976

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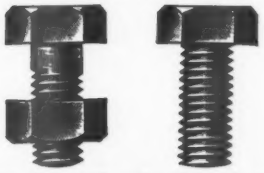

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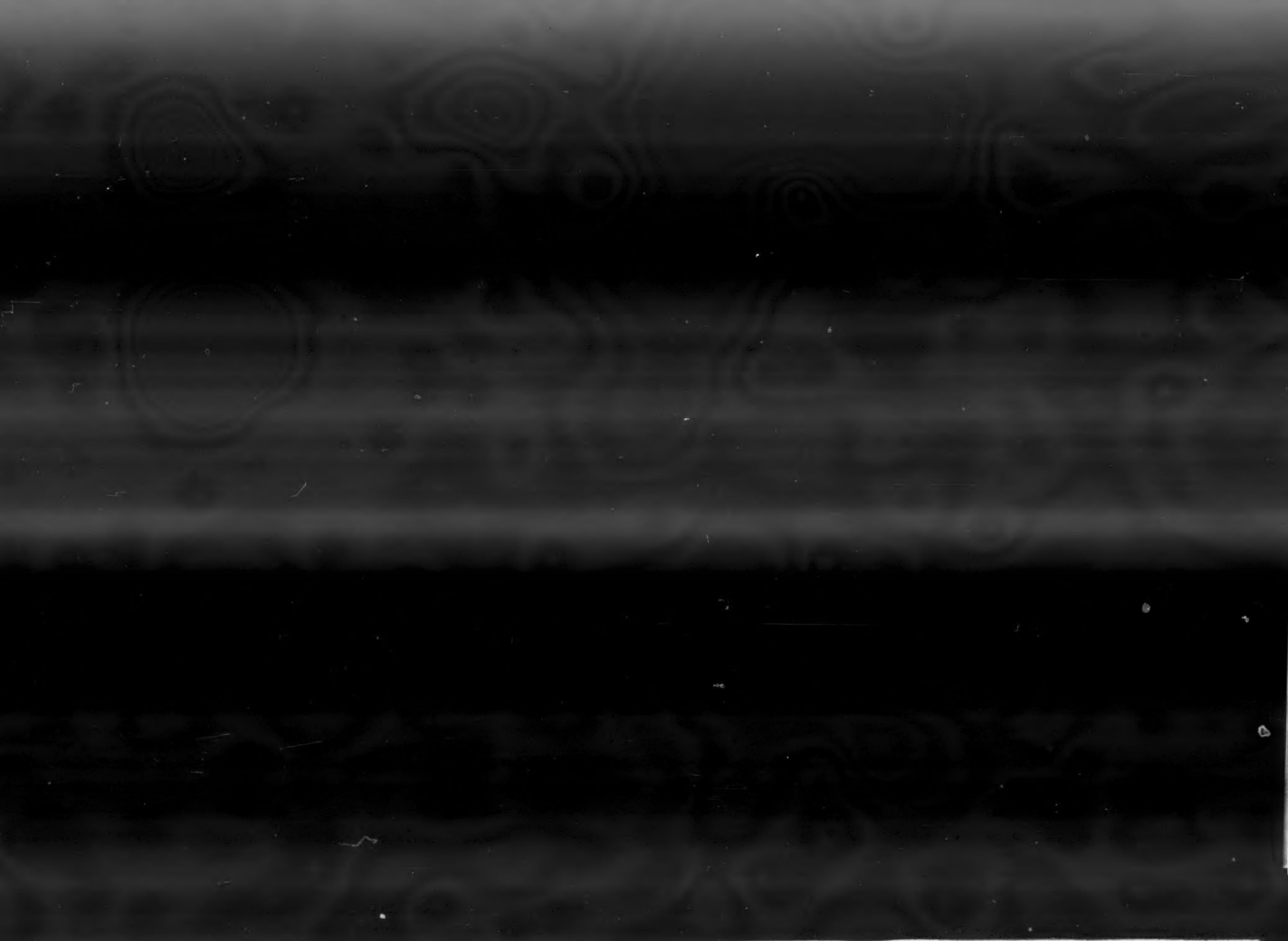
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